

# woroni

The ANU Student Newspaper  
volume 51, number 2, 1999




**The Aboriginal Tent Embassy**

**How VSU will effect you**

**Gary Humphries strikes back**

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 summer in Japan

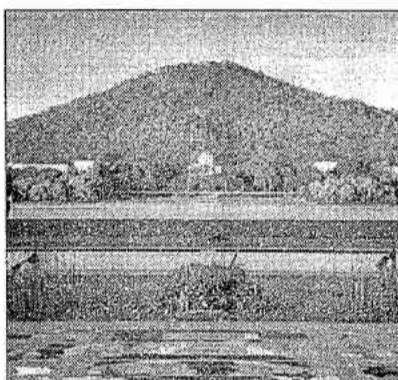
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**Editors in chief:** Michael Cook, Jasmine Lee, Daniel Landon **News editor:** Daniel Heard **Politics & Canberra scene editor:** Katherine Giles **Cultural editor:** Charlie Higgins **Entertainment editor:** Alice Rees **Clubs & Societies editor:** Ben Clanchy **Letters editor:** Kianna Lafferty **Advertising manager:** Stephen Still **Photography:** Michael Cook, Jason Richardson, Belinda Schurmann **IT Consultant:** Peter Still **Contributors:** Andrew Allan, Kaon Bell, David Carpenter, Daniel Casey, Ben Clanchy, T Alan Chilver, Michael Cook, Carmen Currie, Tim Dixon, Priya Fivakumaran, Matt Gallagher, Fiona Gardner, Eleanor Gilbert, Katherine Giles, Tom Gordon, David Gosling, Sister Gwen, Ben Halliday, Daniel Heard, Dr Insomnia, Jason Ives, Penny Jones, Judge Judy, Lyn Kemmis, Henry Kinkle Kianna Lafferty, Daniel Landon, Jasmine Lee, Kristern Nunney, Peter P, May Plume, Sally Pryor, Robin Shortt, Dan Silkstone, Barry The Sprout, Helen Stitt, Shaun Tipson, Mark Thomson, Treefrog, Nick Westcott, Fleur Wimborne.

**Directors of student publications:** Paul Barnsley, Fleur Wimborne, Peter Still **Thanks to:** Gary Humphries who has done more for us than any public relations consultant ever could, Penny Jones for her constant enthusiasm, Peter Still for being such a computer guru, Sylvia D'Souza for her champagne and photoshop work, the fantastic Graeme Blank for his expert knowledge, *CUrio* for their support and anyone else we should have mentioned but have not. **Printed by:** Canweb. **Deadline for next issue:** 25 March.

*Woroni* is the official newspaper of the ANU Students' Association. Want to contribute? Please do — we'd love to hear from you! You can find us in the Students' Association offices on the 1st floor of the Union Building. Alternatively, you could call (6248 7127), fax (6249 3967) or email ([woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au))

The opinions expressed in *Woroni* are not necessarily those of the editors or the ANU Students' Association. Bite us.

# Letters

Got something to say? Why not put it in an email and send it off to [woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au) or drop your diatribe personally in at our office (located in the Students' Association). We publish all letters unless they're clearly sexist, racist, homophobic or defamatory (and we won't put stupid headlines on them, either.)

## Thumbs Up!

Dear *Woroni*,

I am a new international student who is just starting my education at ANU. In the first week of our orientation, we were given some pamphlets and magazines produced by either ANU departments or the Students' Association.

But the magazine that grabbed my attention most was *Woroni*. I have read your March 1999 edition entitled: 'Pissing on in O Week' with the cover photo of a man pissing on the fish pond. That was marvellous! Furthermore, in one of these pages, you put the naked photo of David Ducohn and Gillian Anderson; the photo that I tried so hard to download from the internet but couldn't.

Last but not least, in the last pages, you also put some naked photos of ANU students from a party. Hey, it was so fantastic. Perhaps I should inform you that in my country we cannot do such things as a 'comedy parade' in campuses. Well, I am going to enjoy study at ANU!

So, keep happy and productive. I always wait for your shocking news and photos as well. And please don't take it too personal for those who keep criticising you. This magazine just for us who need some fresh and popular news (and photos) in academic setting.

Love and peace,  
Harry

## Bike Thief — Watch Out

To The Fucker who stole my green Giant Boulder Mountain Bike from outside the bar on Wednesday 24th Feb, May we never meet.

The Protia

## Students Lose Under VSU

G'day,

Having read Mr. Nick Tolley's (President, Australian Liberal Students Federation) side of the Voluntary Student Unionism debate in the last issue, I would like to offer my views. I started studying at WA uni's in 1995 (which was the first year they introduced VSU), and watched as over the next four years the services rapidly deteriorated. I look around ANU and see all these great services and facilities and think "Wow!". Then I remember that we used to have most of them in WA. But not anymore, because people don't even join the Union — or "Guild" as it is known there.

Tolley claims that WA uni's still have "bar crawls; they still have clubs and societies; and they still have student newspapers". EXCUSE ME!!! It's much worse than that. Last year we didn't even have a Student Guild for a while there. We didn't have a student newspaper, because that folded as well and come to think of it... we didn't really have much else at all. The Guild SHUT DOWN COMPLETELY, and the uni had to give them some "bailout" money that allowed them to open for 3 hours every day to provide these "services" that Tolley claims are the ones that students "genuinely wanted". We never had bands playing, food was expensive and events were literally nonexistent.

And as for the supposedly wonderful aspect that VSU lowers fees: yes - they dropped, but only because they realised that there was no way in the

world people were ever going to pay them. And they still don't. So as for the claim that "student representation is as strong as it has ever been, and student life has not in any way deteriorated" - where they hell are these "facts" coming from? WA? - I think not. DEFINITELY not.

Keep it compulsory,  
Jen Keane

## Ranting About Rant

Once again, *Woroni* has dedicated a segment of its student paper to political commentary, with contributions in each issue from the representatives of four different political parties. This year the segment is called *Rant*, and its purpose is to allow the different standpoints of political student clubs within the ANU to be expressed. When examining this year's first instalment of *Rant*, however, what is most noticeable is not the differences between the political clubs, but the predictable way in which they express their differences. Anybody who has ever bothered to read this section of the paper will already know that there are certain rules as to how one should argue a case in *Rant*.

1. Never deviate in any way from what the majority of your party would want you to say.

This is probably the most important rule. In issue 1, the 'Socialist Worker Student Club', the 'ANU Labor Students' Club', the 'ANU Liberal Club', and the 'ANU Anarchist Collective', each dedicated a column to *Rant*, and in each case you could predict what each party representative was going to say before you had even read a word. Kianna Lafferty, on behalf of the Labor Club disagrees with everything that the federal government is saying and doing. Tim Dixon, from the ANU Liberal Club, agrees with everything that the federal government is saying and doing. Ben Halliday, writing for the Socialist Workers, disagrees with everything that the federal government is saying and doing, but is also concerned about what capitalist countries are saying and doing. Peter Jovanovic, defending the Anarchist cause, is "firmly opposed to all authority wherever it comes from", and so is in disagreement with everything that the above three writers are saying. No concession is ever made to the opposition by any contributor, nor does any writer hint that there may be more than one way of looking at the problem of, say, voluntary student unionism or the Australian tax system. The predictability of the arguments in *Rant* means that the segment is not a political debate, but rather a page upon which party representatives are able to paste their party's well-known standpoint. Every column is a reiteration of what has already been printed in pamphlet form.

2. Use pretentious diction to belittle your opponents and dress up your own biased judgements.

Each of the writers in *Rant* use inappropriate metaphors and adjectives when describing their own political viewpoint or attacking their opponent's political viewpoints. To Ben Halliday, the free market is being "torn apart at the seams". For Kianna Lafferty, "[T]he start of the political year has seen the facade used by the government to defend their GST suffer its first fracture". Tim Dixon, however, believes that while "it is pretty easy to scream blue murder at such a massive tax overhaul", we have an opportunity to "streamline the spaghetti of our tax laws". Peter Jovanovic, though, doesn't "believe the way to socialism is to have an infallible vanguard party" (wouldn't an infallible party — meaning one that couldn't fail — be a good thing?). The free market economy is not merely encountering a few problems, it is being *torn apart at the seams* and is in a state of *crisis*. The GST has not merely been opposed by a Professor at Monash University, it has suffered its *first of many fractures*. Our current tax laws are not merely inefficient, they are *a bowl of spaghetti*, whatever the *pseudo-research* of Professor Dickson might suggest. The socialists don't merely want a vanguard party, they want an *infallible vanguard party*. A similar technique is to refer to opponents not as 'the Labor Party', or 'the Student Association', but as "self-interested whingers" (Dixon), "university bosses" (Halliday). The phrase

'Lefties' doesn't appear in *Rant*, issue 1, but I look forward to its return in issue 2.

3. Make dubious connections between your own biased judgements and issues that may affect students at the ANU.

The best example of this comes from Peter Jovanovic, who, when referring to "the other socialists on campus", identifies the party as wanting: an infallible vanguard party headed by an all knowing glorious comrade leader that seizes state power and then promptly shoots a lot of fellow revolutionaries. Instead anarchists believe that the way to socialism involves people directly seizing the wealth to use for their own benefit. We have this funny feeling that just because gulags, massive armies and secret police couldn't create socialism it doesn't mean ordinary people can't.

Remember here that he is talking about the socialist parties within student campuses. Now, I was at the ANU in 1995, at a time when the Student Association was managed largely by a socialist student club, and I don't remember seeing students being dragged at gunpoint to a gulag on the South oval, or massive socialist armies marching past the Uni Bar, or even reports of secret police attaching bugging devices to the ducks in Sullies Creek. The paragraph is a deluded fantasy concocted by Mr. Jovanovic to support his own viewpoint.

Notice how little of *Rant* is devoted to student issues. There is a small 'on campus' section included by Kianna Lafferty, but the majority of every article, including Kianna's, is taken up by a reiteration of what has previously been agreed upon within party rooms. Tim Dixon's admission that students might "get a bit of a raw prawn from the GST" (another inappropriate metaphor), suggests that, for him and every other columnist, what the party says is far more important than anything that is happening on campus.

In sum, *Rant* is a worthless feature of *Woroni*. Only when contributors begin to question their own party line, state their case in clear, unpretentious English, and talk about issues relevant to students at the ANU, will it have any value within what is supposed to be a student paper.

Daniel Edwards

## Drugs are still bad

Dear Sir/Madam,

Official needle exchanges in Australia were first set up (in Sydney) in 1987-88. The theory being that clean equipment might reduce the spread of dangerous virus infections. The number of exchange outlets in NSW rapidly climbed from 40 to 750 in the first 5 years. Since 1991, the incidence of Hepatitis C (believed to be spread only by contaminated needles) has increased — now 65 percent of IV drug abusers have the infection. A man from Mars might suspect that such a terrible outcome could not happen if the syringes were loaded with Hepatitis C virus before being handed out. They aren't. But it's pretty obvious that needle exchange programs do nothing to prevent IV drug abusers' getting infected. All it achieves is getting taxpayers to help pay for lawbreakers' illegal activities.

Arnold Jago

## Gary: Petty and Puny?

May I just say that Gary Humphries, yours and my Attorney-General, is a... [censored]... that he gets his jollies by kicking student newspapers (like *Woroni*) but can't hack it when the media attention gets a bit ugly, as it did when The Canberra Times published photos of him sans pants.

Having read the article that so raised Gary's pulse, I had dismissed it as a (rather poor) attempt at humour. It seemed to me that the title of the article, "Getting Away With It", referred more to what the editors were trying to do more than any piss-head driver.

For Humphries MLA to condemn student newspapers and use this small piece to argue the case of VSU made me shake my head in disgust. 300 words,

which concludes with "By far the best way to avoid getting done for DUI is not to drive while pissed... (etc)" demonstrates to me Gary was out for any excuse to push his own ideological line.

And in conclusion, judging from the photo in the Canberra Times, Gary... [censored]... which might explain his present occupation and recent rant.

Anonymous

## Voice of Concern

Dear Editors,

As members of the General Representative Council we felt that it was necessary to write, in light of the past two weeks. *Woroni* and subsequently the ANU Students' Association has found themselves in the spotlight of national media coverage.

This has brought to a head a number of concerns that the council has with the present publication. We fully respect your rights as directly elected editors but too, ask you to take into account that *Woroni* is not a separate legal body to the Association. The trustees of the Association will ultimately bear the consequences, as will the Association for any future damage the publication may cause and the last publication has been call for concern. We would like to reiterate that the constitution makes clear that *Woroni* is not to publish any material "that is in any way racist, sexist, homophobic or defamatory..." Also, in this climate of close government scrutiny we would like to ask the paper to keep in mind the best interest of it's constituents and the Association itself. Attacks of a personal nature or upon groups with small recourse are not invited and it is hoped that the good judgement of the 1999 Editors will prevail.

Yours in Union,

The 1999 General Representative Council

## Who you callin' corrupt?

Dear Editor

*Woroni* #1/1999 carried an article from Mr Darian Clark purporting to speak on behalf of Labor Students at the ANU. Mr Clark's article contained a number of misleading and defamatory remarks about the ANU Labor Students Club that demand immediate correction.

I can assure *Woroni* readers that the ANU Labor Students' Club is neither corrupt nor defunct. The facts about the Club speak for themselves:-

1. Labor Students' Club has been a feature of ANU political life since the 1960s.

2. The Club has been officially recognised by ACT Young Labor and Australian Young Labor as representing Labor students at the ANU.

3. ALP National President Barry Jones and Federal Member for Canberra Annette Ellis are patrons of the Club.

4. The Club represents mainstream Labor ideals. Members are drawn from a variety of groupings within the ALP including the Right, Centre, Non-Aligned, Unity and Centre-Left.

5. The Club proudly supports the Federal Parliamentary leadership of Kim Beazley and Simon Crean and the ACT Assembly leadership of Jon Stanhope and Ted Quinlan.

6. Many former members have gone on to represent the ALP in Federal and State Parliaments, work for the ALP in the National Secretariat, State and Territory Branch offices and as parliamentary staffers, or work in the Labour movement for various trade unions.

Mr Clark's Left Labor Club was cobbled together over the summer break. They have no claim on the rich history of achievement of Labor at ANU. As their title suggests, they have left Labor. They have abandoned the mainstream of the party and now represent nothing more than the personal ambitions of a fringe element of the Socialist Left.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Barr  
President  
ACT Young Labor

# KICKSTART

## WINNER of the Month

Michael Baker, 23, narrator of Australia's "real-life soap opera" *Sylvania Waters*, talked his way out of death at the hands of Hutu rebels in Uganda. The rebels killed eight of his fellow travellers, but Baker walked barefoot back to safety with five others.

Perhaps his role on the "loved and loathed" TV show taught him survival skills. His mother, Noeline Donaher, claims the show ruined her life and destroyed her family. Soon after the show finished, youngest son Michael changed schools and left his family's famous home.

Australia's high commissioner to Kenya, Philip Green, praised the Sydney resident. "He's a remarkable young man and has come out of it extremely well. He's been through an extremely torrid time and he stood up to it in a way that makes you very proud for him to be an Australian."

"And he did pretty well escaping from those rebels, too."

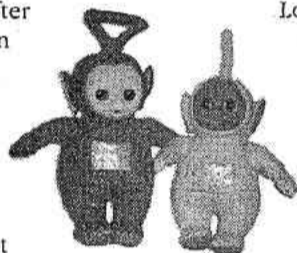


## LOSER of the Month

Teletubby Tinky Winky, the oversized purple gay icon, is a dangerous role model for children, warns conservative American preacher Jerry Falwell.

This is not the religious leader's first feud with the media. He took *Hustler* magazine to court when it claimed he preached when drunk and had sex with his mother in an outhouse. He also condemns the cartoon *South Park*, in which "human waste named Mr. Hankey becomes a live, speaking character."

However, in Dr Falwell's opinion, Tinky Winky is definitely Loser of the Month. "The character, whose voice is obviously that of a boy, has been found carrying a red purse in many episodes and has become a favourite character among gay groups worldwide. "He is purple — the gay-pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle — the gay-pride symbol. These subtle depictions are no doubt intentional and parents are warned to be alert to these elements of the series."



## Town and Gown Outrage



photo: John Cook

The annual Town and Gown cricket Match — an excuse for the Vice Chancellor to impress corporate sponsors, and for B&G boys to get totally wasted — was cancelled without warning because "Kate Carnell, the Chief Minister, could not attend."

The VC's office did not appreciate the comment that this could only improve the event. There'll be no tossing this year, Deane.

## Unsolicited Endorsement

"Woroni is an infinitely better publication than when I was first on campus."

— Gary Humphries, ACT Attorney General



(He actually said this, we have it on tape.)

## Spot that Toilet!

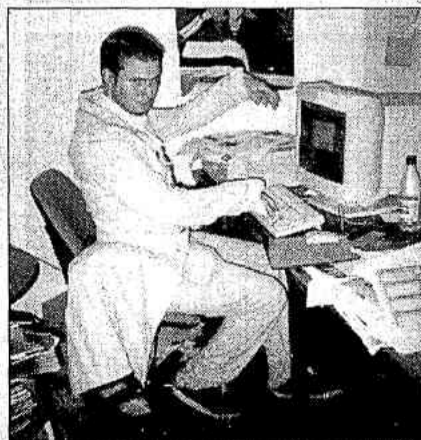


Welcome to the second instalment of 'Spot that Toilet!' This issue we feature a particularly distinguished dunny. Note the elegant silver flushing handle — none of your cheap shit here, if you'll pardon the pun.

Unfortunately there is a distinct lack of graffiti to amuse oneself during an extended sitting. However, and this is what we at *Woroni* really appreciate, this dunny features its very own washbasin. Lovely. Trooping from the toilet with dirty hands sux.

So, if you know where this toilet, one of the pinnacles of the ANU's 812 toilets is, come into the *Woroni* office. We promise to reward the first person to do so with a lovely prize. Bog on boys and girls.

## Thanks to, amongst others...



(left) Just like Mozart in his day, *Woroni* co-Editor Michael Cook is an undiscovered genius with a bad fashion sense. Just look at his style and skill as he plays the keyboard in his long flowing robe... sensational.

(below) Peter Still and Jasmine Lee looking right at home in front of a keyboard. If it wasn't for the unflinching knowledge of these two, you'd be reading *Green Left* instead of *Woroni*.



(above) It's pranks like standing naked in the *Woroni* office that got Daniel Heard the job of News Editor for 1999.

# NEWS

## O-Week: a deceptively fun start to the university year

By Daniel Heard

ANU students enjoyed a week of fun, frolic and drinking during the traditional O-week welcome to the university year.

O-week began on Monday with the usual introductory lectures and faculty tours, as well as free bands and a BBQ provided by the Student's Association.

The traditional ANU bar crawl topped off the day, beginning with happy hour at the uni bar, and then working its drunken way through Mooseheads, the Gypsy Bar, Pandora's and Heaven, ending up at the Private Bin.

"The bar crawl went off, man, everyone had an awesome time. Heaven was totally packed, and even the Bin was good!" said one participant.

The main feature of Tuesday was the Pool Party, held at Civic Pool. The 10 metre diving tower was opened at one stage in the afternoon, resulting in reddened buttocks all around. One unfortunate girl landed on the back of her thighs after a leap from the five metre tower, attracting sympathetic moans of pain from onlookers.

Market day, the biggest day of O-week, began with a free cham-

pagne breakfast in union court. Hundreds of clubs set up stalls, attempting to sign up new members from the large crowds of enthusiastic browsers.

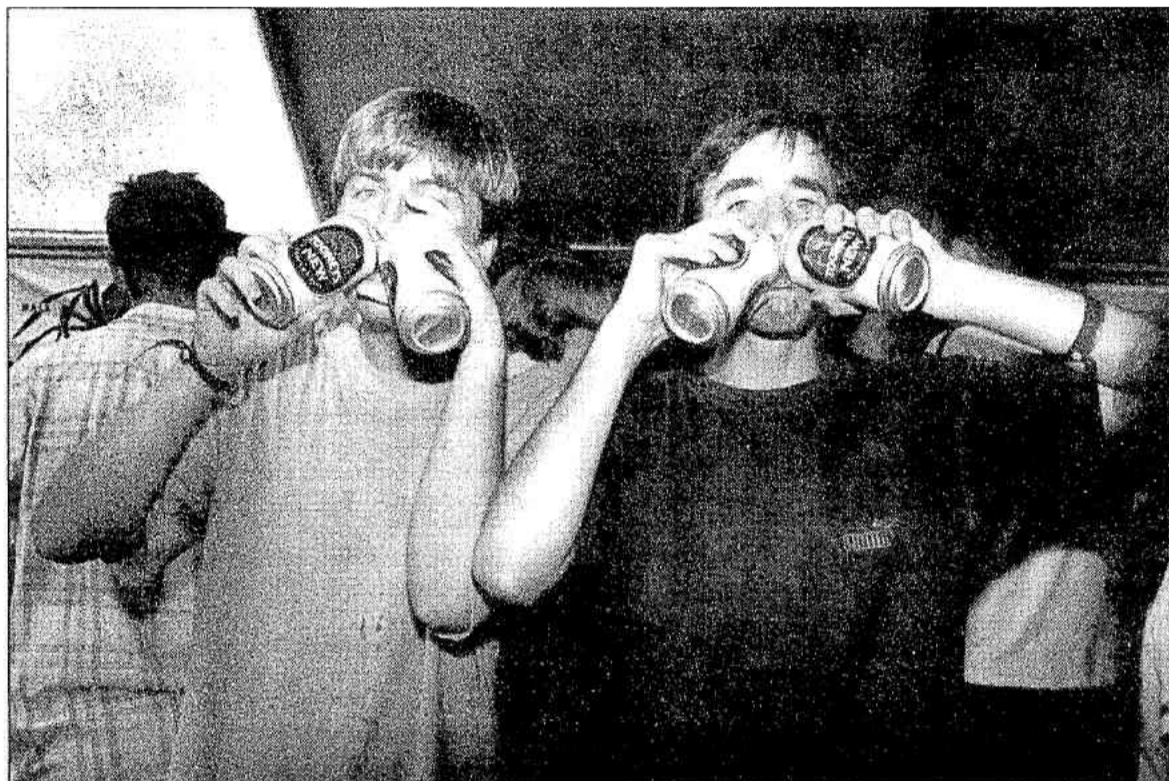
One surprise entry to the race for members was the newly founded ANU Comedy Club, which managed to attract 160 members with an unorthodox offering of a free drink and a personalised coffee bean.

"The Comedy Club is taking over the ANU. First it was market day, next we intend on ousting the vice-chancellor from his building and declaring it the 'Comedy Club Centre'. The more people who join the Comedy Club, the closer we get to our goal. Join the club of the future, or we'll beat you with mallets" said Adam Gould, Comedy Club president.

The day was topped off by the performance of Catatonia and Automatic at the unibar.

Thursday was CHILL OUT day, with a free BBQ, jumping castle and bands courtesy of the Student's Association. DJs also provided music throughout the day, and in the evening Fear Factory played at the unibar.

Friday's main event was the controversial Big Day Inn, which



(Above) An O-week without beer is like a fish without water. Believe it or not, these guys weren't posing for the camera.

photo: Belinda Schurmann

replaced the traditional thursday night Bar Slug. The drop in attendance was attributed by most students to the 11am-5.30pm timeslot.

"Who's going to want to get pissed during the day? I hope they go back to Thursday night next year" said one 2nd year science/law student.

### Fear Factory visit SA office before O-Week gig

*W*oroni staff working back late in the Students' Association offices on Thursday of O-week found themselves sharing quarters with Fear Factory before their Unibar gig.

Fear Factory drummer

Raymond Herrera left the bridge-cum-green room and came next door looking for a telephone.

One *Woroni* editor was quoted as saying "yeah, it was kind of cool, but they stunk up the toilets pretty badly with their deodorant".

## Big Day Inn "piss-weak"

By Shaun Tipson

The Big Day Inn, the culmination of Orientation Week for 1999, was described by various later year students as "piss-weak" and "disappointing", and left first-years wondering what was the big deal about the Bar Slug and its daytime replacement.

The new daytime timeslot was generally unpopular, according to one 2nd year Arts student "Bar Slug wasn't meant to be on in day light. I mean, who's going to climb up the pole butt-naked while the sun's still shining". He also went on to point out that this year's choice of tent didn't seem to allow climbing of any kind, as a result putting paid to a Bar Slug tradition.

Many people were also put off by the small number of people inside the enclosure. Bruce, a third year IT student, summed up the situation: "it's a bit dodgy when you look through the fence and there are more security guards than people. It seemed like a better idea to head for the Uni bar or into town."

However, according to the few that made it through the fence the day was a rewarding experience. Although critical of the change in time, 3rd year Law Alex said that "the drinks were cheap and the music was awesome, especially the DJs". He went on to estimate that the crowd peaked at "about 200", although "I'd had a quite a few drinks by then".

The ANU's 1999 intake was

also represented well at the Big Day Inn, with many 1st years unable to believe that alcohol could be so cheap. One such was Dylan, a first year law student, who consumed six one-dollar spirits within minutes of entering the event. Described by his friends as "a bit of a Cadbury anyway", the sudden intake of alcohol ensured that Dylan had a great afternoon. More importantly, the tradition of cost-effective alcohol poisoning seems to have been safely passed on for another year.

(Above right) The Big Day Inn. (Right) Last year's Bar Slug. You decide.



## Government releases proposed VSU legislation

By Kaon Bell

The controversial new Act which would outlaw a compulsory services fee (and automatic union membership) contains an unsubtle threat for those who do not comply with VSU.

A draft of the Bill proposes two new conditions for Universities to meet before they receive Commonwealth grants: voluntary student unionism, and voluntary student fees for services "not directly related to ... educational courses." These conditions fall under section 18 of the Higher Education Funding Act 1988; the Bill notes pointedly that "where an institution fails to fulfil a section 18 condition, financial assistance may be recovered from the institution by the Commonwealth (in whole or in part)." In other words, funding that goes directly to the University's "educational courses" could be reduced or even cut off by the Government, should "student unionism" remain compulsory.

The threat is the Government's strongest tactic in a debate involv-

ing campuses across the country. Should the Bill be passed in the Senate, universities would have little choice but to accept VSU, rather than face more budget cuts in this time of economic rationalism. Actual shutting down of a University, a concern expressed in recent media pieces, would be unlikely.

Groups opposing VSU state that the current General Services Fee (\$180 per student in the ANU) provides essential services that could not be maintained under a voluntary contributions scheme. These are given through four associations at the ANU — the Sports Union, the Students' Association, the ANU Union and the Postgraduate and Research SA. Facilities that they provide include welfare, tax, and Centrelink advice, publications, clubs and societies, representation to the Administration, the ANU Arts Centre, subsidising products for students, and many more. If the University were to take over these services it would be expensive and, because of low membership in the voluntary Associations, student

members on Boards etc. would not be truly representative.

Supporters of VSU assert that compulsory membership in a union goes against the common right to freedom of association. Students should be able to choose their associations, and pay for the services they want on campus. However, unless some distinction is made between members and non-members, for example in the Union building, it is likely many students will opt out of paying, and services will deteriorate. Should such a distinction exist, the campus might become divisive and inequable.

Similar legislation in West Australia has caused damage to the student Guilds there, one University having to shut down its Guild, ending student support services. In Victoria, a fee is still charged, but cannot go towards student newspapers, groups or representatives.

The fate of the Bill should be determined sometime in May, with Independent Senators Mal Colston and Brian Harradine likely to be the deciding votes.

## Reith "attacks" red tape

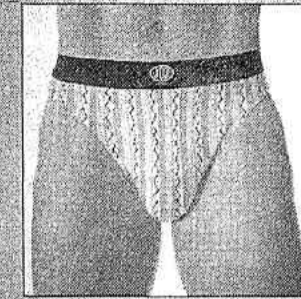
The Federal Government has begun an "assault on red tape" — by giving small business owners another task to complete when filling out government forms.

Workplace Relations minister Peter Reith recently launched the "Timesaver" initiative, which aims to determine the amount of time small businesses spend completing government forms. This will be accomplished by having business operators record on each form they complete the length of time it took them to do so.

"Timesaver" will be launched on July 1, with every federal form sent to a small business including a box to record the time spent completing the form.

"Yes, you'll have to look at your watch as you start and look at your watch when you finish, and some people will tell us where to get off, but that's fine, we love them all, that's our policy" stated the minister.

## in briefs



### Vegetes bad for the boys?

A new study suggests that vegetarian mothers are five times as likely to have a son born with a genital defect than meat-eating mothers. Researchers from Bristol University conducted an investigation of more than 7900 mothers, and discovered the strange correlation. The researchers believe crop pesticides or natural oestrogen-related chemicals called phyto-estrogens (which exist in high concentrations in soya products) may be involved.

### Spice Sprog

Spice Girl Victoria Adams has given birth to a baby boy in London. The baby will be named "Brooklyn Joseph", said soccer star father David Beckham, supposedly because Victoria was in Brooklyn when she discovered she was pregnant.

### Vibrators banned

USA: The state of Alabama has passed a law that makes the sale or purchase of vibrators illegal.

The amendment to the obscenity statute of that state now "makes it unlawful to produce, distribute, or otherwise sell sexual devices that are marketed primarily for the stimulation of human genital organs."

However, while vibrators are now illegal in the state, Viagra remains freely available.

## MLA Condemns Woroni

By Daniel Heard

Woroni received nationwide coverage during O-Week after ACT Attorney General Gary Humphries attacked an article he claimed encouraged drink driving.

Newspapers such as The Canberra Times, The Daily Telegraph and the Financial Review covered the story, along with other media outlets such as JJJ and the Today Show.

Mr Humphries accused the satirical article of "educating young people in how to break the law". This was despite the fact that the article not only contained two prominent disclaimers, but also that the last of the six "clear incitements to break the law" reads "by far the best way to avoid getting done for DUI is not to drive while pissed".

"This is the perennial problem with compulsory student unionism, students' subscriptions contribute to publications like this which often go too far" stated Mr Humphries.

"Students are unwittingly giving their support to this publication which encourages people to

break the law. This is the best argument for Voluntary Student Unionism I've seen."

Woroni's editors rejected Mr Humphries' claims, stating that the article was clearly satirical and contained a strong anti drink driving message.

"Gary Humphries has misinterpreted this strong anti-DUI message. It has been shown that 18-24 year olds do not react to scare tactics. This article is an attempt to inform with humour. Students — our target audience — are smart enough to realise the true aim of this article" stated the editors in defending the article.

They also stated that Mr Humphries was attempting to create favourable publicity for the Howard Government's attack on Student Associations nationwide.

"Gary Humphries is deliberately misconstruing this article to create propaganda for the Federal Liberal Party's Voluntary Student Unionism legislation."

Mr Humphries' claims have also been attacked as "hypocritical" by SA president Helen Stitt: Mr Humphries was the president of the ANU Students' Association in 1982.

### ANU Students' Association Notice of Ordinary General Meeting

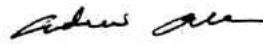
All members of the Association are to be informed that the first Ordinary General Meeting of the Academic Year will be held

Thursday 25th March at 1pm

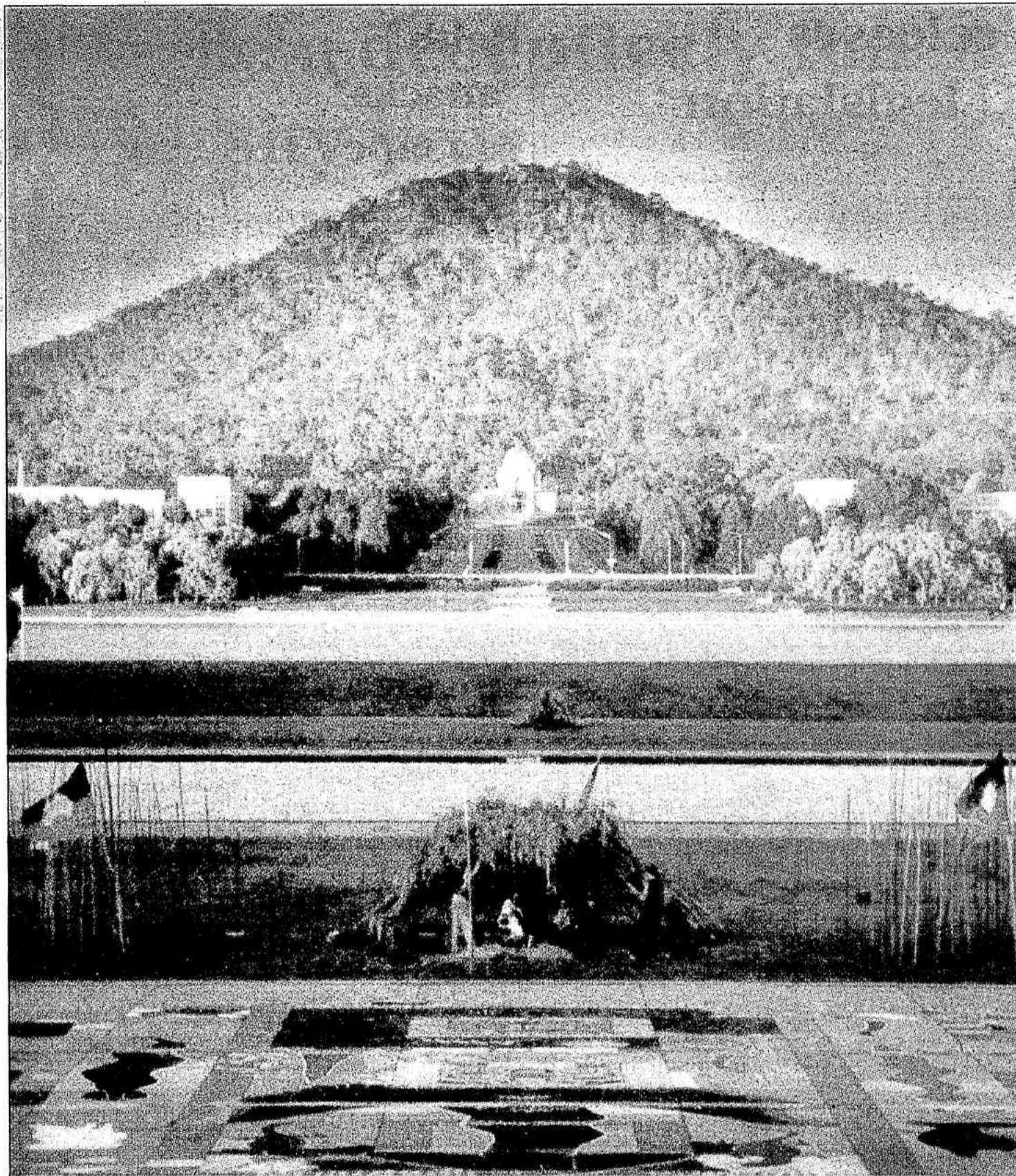
MCC T6

All motions and items for the Agenda must be submitted to the General Secretary, in writing, by the close of business on Friday 19th March 1999.

This meeting has been called in accordance with s 7.4.1 of the Constitution of the Association.

  
Andrew Allan  
General Secretary  
05/03/99

# Fire Creator for Justice is Awoken



**The Aboriginal Tent Embassy, and the people who have fought for its existence, have excited both admiration and condemnation from around Australia. Recently, the chorus of disapproval has grown louder. In an effort to counter media bias and misinformation, *Woroni* asked prominent Aboriginal Rights campaigner Eleanor Gilbert to write about the history of the Embassy, its purpose, and the problems that hinder peace between Aboriginal Peoples and Whites.**

by Eleanor Gilbert

The international spotlight once again focused on the Aboriginal Tent Embassy when, on 25 January 1999, Minister for the Territories Ian MacDonal invoked a 1932 trespass ordinance to remove the caravans, tents and dwellings on the site. This is despite the fact that the Tent Embassy has been registered on the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission since 1995 as a "living site... a dynamic site which is continually evolving and changing to cater to the needs of the Aboriginal people who visit and live there." Isabell Coe, of the Wiradjuri, explains that "our Embassy is the longest running protest site in the country. This is representative of how our people have to live in our own country — and this, I might add, is a lot better than how a lot of people have to live. They don't have access to basic necessities like water."

In 1972, Billy Craigie, Kamilaroi, Bertie Williams, Wiradjuri, Tony Coorey, Wiradjuri and Michael Anderson Euahlayi came to Canberra to begin the protest which quickly became the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, confronting the McMahon government's decision to ignore land rights and offer, instead, 25 year leases to Aboriginal lands. As a result of the police brutality vented on the Embassy, for the first time international attention was focused on the Land Rights struggle and the human rights abuses towards Aboriginal Peoples — including what Kevin Gilbert described as crimes against humanity committed during an unjust war, including scientifically based eugenics genocidal policies which led to the Stolen Generations, the assimilation policies and 'mainstreaming' that are a continuation of the pre-meditated genocide, and the continuing appalling state of Aboriginal health (Professor Ian Ring, in the 1995 *Australian Journal of Public Health*, has stated that "the really exceptional feature of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health is the enormously high adult mortality. In Australia, the gap in the expectation of life between Aboriginal communities and the total population in most states is the best part of 20 years").

Australia is breaching international treaty obligations to prevent and punish genocide. In 1948 Australia was the third country to sign the genocide convention but has failed to enact the domestic legislation in the States and Territories explains Eureka Gilbert.

The Embassy has since become the only site that is recognised both nationally and internationally as representing the grassroots fight for recognition of Aboriginal Sovereignty. "In the language of the earth, our Old Peoples, our Sovereignty just is. It is our natural right. We do not need it legitimized by the thief, we need the thief to stop the stealing, the desecration and prevent the genocide. Our Sovereignty cannot be extinguished," says Irene Watson, of the Tanganeakald.

On 26 January 1992, the Tent Embassy celebrated its twentieth anniversary. The protest developed rapidly and Embassy people strategically occupied the vacant old Parliament House and flew the land rights flag from the flagpole on the roof for the first time. On 28 January the Declaration for Aboriginal Sovereignty was handed to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs by barrister Paul Coe. Under international law this moment begins the process of recognition of Aboriginal Sovereign Rights. The theme of



the protest is encapsulated in the banner: 'Sovereignty Never Ceded'.

Since the early 1990s, the Aboriginal Embassy has been a permanent camp and a constant presence on the parliamentary lawns. The Embassy maintains a platform for all Sovereign Nations of Aboriginals to voice demands for the recognition of Aboriginal Sovereignty, independent of the government gag and manipulation. For many it is the last chance for justice. The Tent Embassy is not controlled by or accountable to the government. It is not connected with ATSIC, reconciliation, or native title. The Embassy is opposed to seeing the current big issues of Wik, Mabo or native title as justice. It calls for more than native title, which is only a collection of residual rights. Native Title is not Land Rights or Sovereign Rights. It functions to validate non-indigenous land titles.

The Embassy is now the spearhead of the sovereignty movement for freedom and peace. It disputes the authority of the Crown's claim to Sovereignty over the lands and Peoples of the Sovereign Aboriginal Nations.

Of the four men who began the Tent Embassy, two have passed on and were remembered in the ceremony for the fallen warriors of the Tent Embassy, Billy Craigie, and Bertie Williams. Tony Coorey, is now a 'forensic' prisoner in a jail within a jail. The fourth is Michael Anderson, who is currently taking the struggle overseas. He has recently addressed 2500 delegates at the national conference of the Greens party in Germany about core issues of the Aboriginal struggle, including how mining strikes at the heart of Aboriginal spirituality and how the Wik amendments are a statutory guarantee for multinationals to access to mineral wealth on Aboriginal land. He is calling on the German Greens party to ban their importation of Australia's uranium.

He has also spoken with members of the European Parliament in Brussels to clarify the consequences of Australia's refusal to sign the standard EU trade contract because of the Human Rights clause, which could allow international scrutiny of Australia's treatment of Aboriginal Peoples. There is now only a watered down joint declaration between Australia and the European Union. This means that Australian tertiary students to Europe are denied scholarships, which would normally be available from the EU; Australia is missing out on development grants from the EU and Australian products are unable to compete in Europe because Australia is denied the lower tariffs available to those countries who sign the Human Rights clause.

Irene Watson, a lawyer, warns of the danger of a rush to impose one treaty on the hundreds of separate sovereign Aboriginal Nations: "There is not one treaty to be found globally between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples that has been honoured by the non-Aboriginal



The Fire at dawn in front of the Government House.

people. So why are we talking treaty? Who will gain and what would be gained from a treaty? The Howard government may want to look good at the Olympics. Are we ready to sit and talk treaty when we are in trauma, when we reside in the belly of genocide and ask this question: would the Jews of the Holocaust treaty with Hitler?

"We need to send them back with Cook to their ship out at sea and leave them to wait for the welcoming, to come to be smoked, bless the land, say sorry and then listen to the wisdom of the Old People and their law-ways. We cannot treaty away the law of this Old Country."

Recent events at the Tent Embassy bring into sharp contrast the contradiction between the essence and purpose of the Embassy, and the misinformation distributed by the government's propaganda machine — and the lack of a free press in this country.

Anyone who participated in the annual Corroboree for Sovereignty on 26 January this year would know that what transpired on that day was a powerful healing process 'to make peace amongst the people and mainly to make peace for our Country'. Arabunna Elder Uncle

Kevin Buzzacott, who carries Fire and Water dreaming, alludes to the depths of the healing ceremony:

*We brought that Water from the river up here and cleansed this Embassy block from the river up to here.*

*We cleansed it, and healed it, and blessed it*

*using that Old Way, bringing the Water, and putting it here on the Fire, joining the two energies, the two big strong energies.*

*Nothing is strong erand older than the two old energies...*

*In the last few days you've probably been hearing*

*all the thunder and the lightning its been answering our blessing -*

*Approval - its been giving the full green light that we are on the right track and a lot of people out there are feeling it but they can't see it.*

*We are all about that peace, Making that one - Country - one - People*

*and we, blackfellas, we've got the key to the unlocking of this whole thing*

The media, however, ignored the significance of the day and focused on a staged event when a detractor, totally unrelated to the Tent Embassy, hung the Koori flag from old Parliament House.

In order to begin a truce in the hostili-

ties an invitation went out to the Prime Minister to attend the Fire Ceremony and discuss the Declaration for Peace. "John Howard's presence at the Embassy's ceremonial Fire is crucial to the process of healing. He has nothing to fear.

Ray Swan, Kamilaroi, explains: "Since the European invasion the Fire Ceremony has been the one constant during a history of massacres, concentration camps and assimilation policies and it will keep burning until healing takes place."

But the Prime Minister maintained his stance of ignoring the most importance issue facing this nation, so the Fire Ceremony and the Declaration for Peace was taken to John Howard's front door in the parliamentary precinct on 8 February, the first parliamentary sitting day of the year.

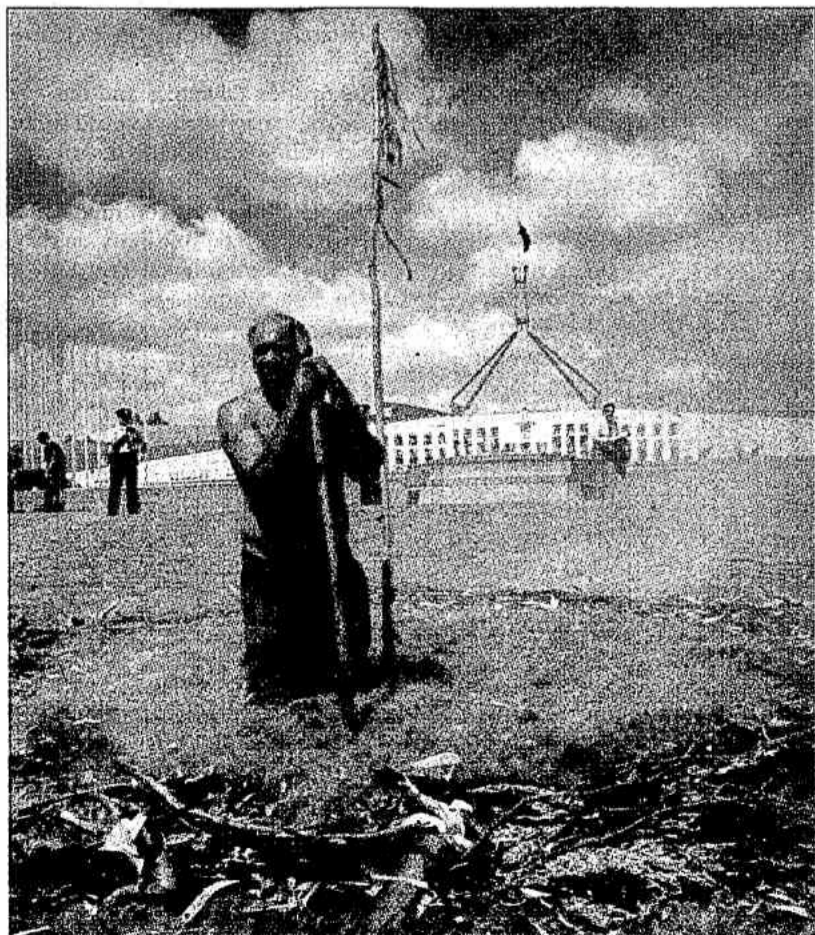
The cleansing and healing smoke from smouldering green gum-leaves found its target in 'the cave on the hill' of Magpie Dreaming. The *South China Morning Post* reported 'Australia Aborigines try to smoke out Prime Minister'.

Howard's interest in peace and respect for custodians of the oldest culture in the world was made clear at 11pm that night when the Fire ceremony was desecrated by parliamentary security controller, Mike Lucas, backed by police, who supervised the loading of the burning logs into the back of a ute.

The Fire for Peace was carried back in a wooden coolamon, on the morning of 10 February, when 211 ceremonial sticks were placed around the Fire, symbolising the 211 years of genocide perpetrated against Aboriginal Peoples. The National Capital Authority (NCA) then ordered the second desecration of the Fire Ceremony. The NCA classified the ceremonial sticks and Fire as an "illegal structure" and ordered their removal. Sergeant Graham Kearney of the AFP directed their removal under the cover of darkness and the ACT Fire Commissioner, Jim Dance, had to personally douse the Fire because of the firemen's refusal to do so.

The Fire Ceremony was re-established the next day on the exact boundary between the parliamentary precinct and the NCA jurisdiction, and the Fire circle was lit around the brass plaque marking the boundary. The Tent Embassy demanded the return of the ceremonial sticks. The Federal Government went into damage control mode with Howard's parliamentary secretary Senator Bill Heffernan spending the entire next day negotiating with the Tent Embassy. He promised that Phillip Ruddock, Minister for Reconciliation, would come to the Fire at 8am Monday 15 February and he personally hired a ute and returned the ceremonial sticks.

"It's like having our young ones freed from jail," was the expression of relief. The Aboriginal Embassy Sovereign Council agreed to take the Fire back to the Mother Fire at the Tent Embassy and wait for Phillip Ruddock's



Uncle Kevin on the lawns of Parliament House moments before police desecrate the Fire.

and John Howard's visit.

Mr. Ruddock failed to meet his commitment and the Fire Ceremony returned to Parliament House. The call for John Howard to attend the ceremony and end the genocide continued to strengthen. But instead of Howard showing leadership, days later Mr Ruddock made a 'dawn raid' during which no official negotiations took place. Ruddock fled as soon as the media turned up. Again the media released a misleading report entitled 'kiss and make up'.

The depth of humanity within Aboriginal people is evident in the media statement of 19 February, refuting the false impression the media has created: "We have taken three peace-talk making fires to Capital Hill since Parliament began this year to start the peace-making process and to start off the healing process with the John Howard government. But the peace Fires did not fail. We did not fail. The Old Spirits did not fail. It was the Federal Government, the Australian Federal Police, the Parliamentary Protective Services and the media critics who have failed. Simply because the peace solution we are offering them is too big for them. They feel threatened and they are blocking negotiations, not us. They fail to recognise our rightful existence, the peace we are offering and the spirit of the old Ancient Country, which never leaves us. This now leaves us no alternative but to make our next move in peace, inviting the Governor-General, the final colonial authority, to come to the Old Embassy Peace Fire. A peace Fire carried to the Governor-General at Government House at 10am Monday morning, in good faith and in good spirit, can seal this invitation."

The response is confrontational and aggressive. There are so many Federal Police at Government House that morning that Tent Embassy officials decide to stay put, declaring: "We are not interested in violence, we are about Peace."

The Governor-General, who has spoken so much about reconciliation and the stolen generations, declined to attend the Fire Ceremony for Peace. To force the issue, so the peace process can begin, the Tent Embassy takes the Fire Ceremony to the gates of Government House on 1 March, arriving at dawn to avoid a confrontation with police.

Even though William Deane was at home, with no appointments that day, he refused to come and talk. Again the NCA arrived, declaring the ceremonial sticks a 'structure' and that no camping is allowed. But the Embassy refused to move, arguing the legal points that the original land grant to Campbell is illegal because no consent was given by Aboriginal owners. The land was taken by massacre and genocide. They retell the story of the massacre on Acton peninsula and assert that Aboriginal law and sovereignty remains. The land title to the Commonwealth seat of power in Canberra is under dispute because of the Native Title claims. Native Title recognises Aboriginal 'customary' Law so the two laws are in dispute. This effectively suspends the jurisdiction of white law over Aboriginal Peoples until the land title is resolved.

Predictably, the media conveys the Tent Embassy as the aggressive party; "Aborigines warn of violence if G-G fails to visit camp" is *The Canberra Times* headline on 3 March. But the message hits home and the Governor-General invites a delegation to his home. Auntie Wadjularbinna, Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Isabel Coe and Ray Swan speak with William Deane for two hours. The door is left open for further talks, even though the Governor-General denies he has any power to persuade John

Howard to enact legislation to prevent and punish the crime of genocide, to end the hostilities, call a truce, and recognise Aboriginal Sovereignty.

An air of scepticism is fanned by the knowledge that the Governor-General, the Queen's man in Australia, is Commander-in-Chief of the combined armed forces and signs every new act of parliament, including the Native Title Act and Native Title Amendment Act, which is the latest legislation to enshrine the genocide. Nevertheless, the delegation decided to break camp and return to the 27 year old Mother Embassy.

As well as media bias, Police attacks and pressure against the Tent Embassy have occurred with increasing frequency. Auntie Wadjularbinna, Gungalidda Elder, tells how the police violence outside parliament house unfolded on 15 February 1999. "I was horrified and absolutely devastated at the violent actions by police to prevent us practising religious, cultural and spiritual freedom on our sacred mountain. I was sitting with a couple of children and two other women when a line of Australian Federal Police officers, donning yellow leather gloves, came towards our Fire ceremony for Peace. I called out for support. My concern was for the sacred Fire and sacred objects, the spiritual message we had brought in the name of peace and justice. The ceremonial sticks were painted white for a special Ceremony that took place the night before. These ceremonial sticks have deep spiritual meaning and connectedness to fallen warriors of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy — Mum Shirl, Billy Craigie, Harold Williams, Bertie Williams and

Kevin Gilbert. The stick that represents the fallen warriors of my Gungalidda nation was joined in spirit with the fallen warriors of the Tent Embassy, through that sacred Ceremony. At that Ceremony the Wiradjuri-Ngunnawal Elders bound in spirit the Gungalidda warriors and acknowledged their role in the great struggle for peace and freedom.

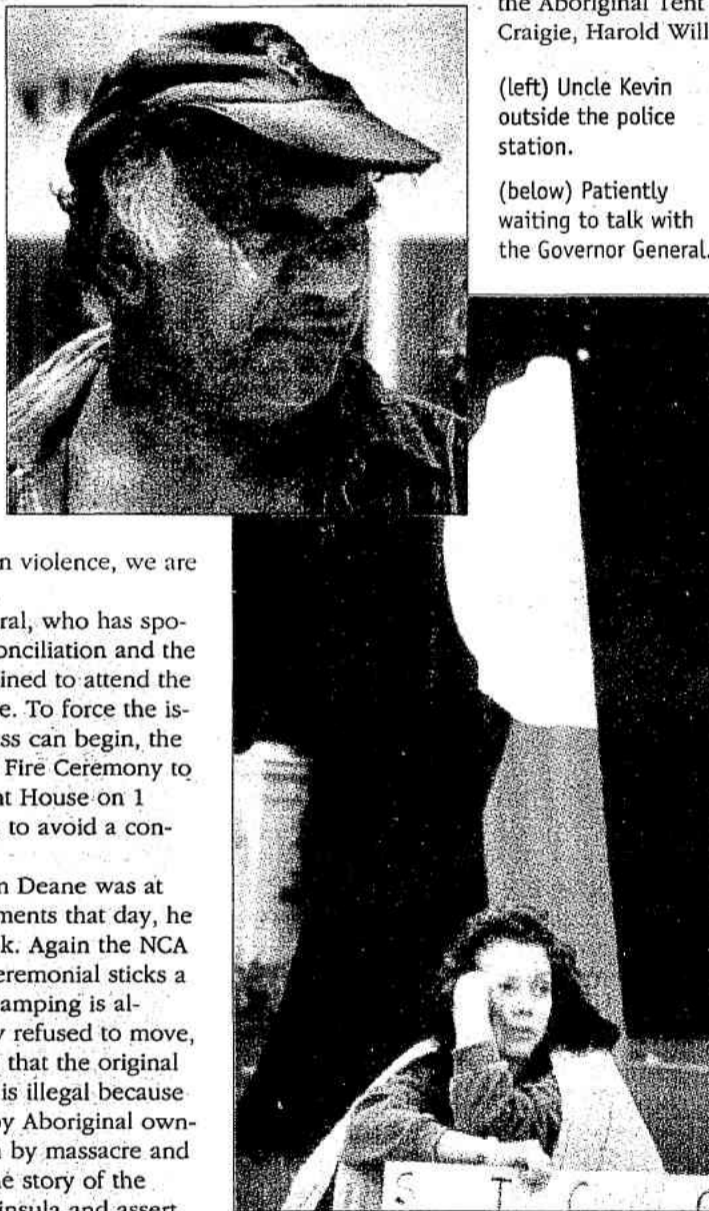
"There is no way that we could have possibly instigated violence against the Federal Police or anyone while we were continuing the Ceremony. We can assure you that the Police, under orders from Federal Parliament, through the Speaker of the House and the president of the senate, Senator Margaret Reid, instigated the violence. They forcefully seized our sacred objects as we clung to them and violently arrested two supporters who were protecting the ceremony. The AFP and the Federal government are revealing their own insecurity and fear of the indomitable spirit of the land and its people."

The white ceremonial spirit sticks were imprisoned in the City Police Station, breaking Aboriginal law and the Heritage Objects Act 1991 which prevents interference with sacred objects.

Two days later Uncle Kevin Buzzacott ceremonially speared the ash-covered Australian flag, known by Aboriginal people as 'The Predator', to kill the evil power over this land, announcing: "The Predator is going back to the Queen in London... If we don't destroy the evil before it destroys us, our spirituality and connectedness to land is doomed."

"The Ceremony is our way of dealing with the evil that is being committed under the banner of the blue, white and red."

The Predator flag has been carried by Uncle Kevin for many years from his home Lake Eyre. He has tracked the evil from Lake Eyre, where the largest uranium mine in



(left) Uncle Kevin outside the police station.

(below) Patiently waiting to talk with the Governor General.

## Sitting Together

A few days ago I visited the Aboriginal Tent Embassy on the lawns of Old Parliament House.

I live in Canberra. I'm an ordinary middle level public servant. This city is full of people like me. For some time I'd been wondering how to express my support for the people at the Aboriginal Embassy. I think that the indigenous people of this country have been treated so badly for so long that they must be heard. Their grievances must be addressed and redressed.

And Howard and the government have responded in an incredibly mean-spirited manner.

So, what could I, ordinary citizen, do about it? Without being a patronising whitey do-gooder? How could I tell the people at the Embassy that not everyone in Canberra agrees with Howard and Herron and the rest of this vindictive and narrow-minded government?

I went over to the Embassy and asked a group of men sitting under a canvas awning if I could sit with them for a while. Without hesitation they welcomed me into their campsite, into their home.

"Mate, you can sit with us till the cows come home," said one.

It turned out they were a bunch of blokes down from Moree for a few days. They'd hired a bus to drive down and camp with their mates.

We talked about Rugby League (go the Rabbits!), about the Moree hot springs, about pesticide pollution by the cotton farmers. And we talked about their loss of their land, their people and culture, about death and disease, about their children stolen from them.

And without rancour and bitterness, that was the amazing part. But with firmness and conviction that they had suffered injustices and they should be heard. After an hour or so I went away, humbled. I had been welcomed into their lives with grace and pride. They are a bunch of lovely blokes.

And I went away angry, that they are still not heard by Howard and Fischer and all the rest of that arrogant ugly crew with power in this country. They don't understand gentleness, genuine humility and real pride.

They should sit down with the original inhabitants of this country, listen and learn. Only then will we achieve reconciliation.

the world is destroying traditional lands, to the burrow (Parliament House) in the sacred mountain of Magpie Dreaming (Capital Hill, Canberra). With others, he and Paul Coe began the Fire ceremony for Peace on 26 January 1998 at the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.

The world focus on the Sydney Olympics and the Centenary of Federation in 2001 may finally expose to the world the truth about the continuing genocide of Aboriginal Peoples, and the survivors who must endure.

Whilst the siege on Aboriginal Peoples continues unabated (on 5 March, the National Capital Authority delivered an official letter declaring the Aboriginal Tent Embassy 'structures' illegal) the Fire continues to burn for justice. As if on cue, this mornings news shows the ash-covered Predator flag, the Australian flag of genocide, inside Buckingham Palaces front yard. It has been returned to the British Crown "To kill this evil that came, to bring it back where it belongs releasing our people from the evil of colonialism so that we can at last have a chance to try and heal our wounds," said Michael Anderson.

And on Friday 12 March Australia appears before the United Nations' Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination — the first Western nation called to 'please explain' the deteriorating race relations and implications of the Native Title Act and the 10 point plan.

In 1972 it was the Canberra students who swelled the numbers supporting the Aboriginal Embassy to thousands. The movement has now gone full circle. This time it is directed by spiritual energy connected to land. It is the spark that delivers hope to a world despairing of rampant destruction, which threatens our very existence and the planet's survival.

Visit the Woroni office for contact details of those involved with the Tent Embassy.

## Need an extra \$40 per week?

**Read this...**

The ACT Cancer Society in conjunction with the ANU Students' Association will be running a five week QUIT for Life Program this semester. Not only can you Quit smoking but you will have all that extra money to spend on luxuries like food. The program will run from 16 March to 15 April on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for two hours per week (you only have to attend one day) between noon and 2 pm.

The total cost is only \$50 for students and staff. If you have difficulty paying this cost please see us and other arrangements can be made.

**Now is the time to take control.**

If you have been a slave to nicotine then this is your opportunity to escape. This is a great program and can give you a new lease on life.

## *woroni* wants YOU

Have you ever picked up *Woroni* and thought:

- (a) I am funnier than these amateurs;
- (b) Gosh *Woroni* is crap. If only I could have my own page to show these *Woroni* people how it is really done;
- (c) I wish I had just one page in this publication so I could spread my evil message of world domination; or
- (d) all of the above.

Then you are the perfect candidate for *Woroni's* new "editor for the day" section. Drop into the *Woroni* Office with your ideas, or email us at...

***woroni\_articles@student.anu.edu.au***

## Undergraduate Accommodation Bursaries Applications close 31 March 1999!

Undergraduate Accommodation Bursary applications must be lodged with University Accommodation Services by 31 March 1999.

Applications must be accompanied by current documentation (e.g. Youth Allowance assessment). Applications are ranked on the basis of the information you provide, so you may place yourself at a disadvantage if you do not supply all relevant documentation.

If you have already applied but your circumstances have changed, please update your details with University Accommodation Services.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the University Accommodation Services web site or the University Accommodation Services office.

***University  
Accommodation  
Services***

**Building 77, Brian Lewis Cres.**  
(near University House)  
**web:** <http://www.anu.edu.au/accom/>  
**phone:** 6243 3100 (ANU internal: x73100)  
**email:** [uni.accom@anu.edu.au](mailto:uni.accom@anu.edu.au)

# Opinion

## Traps for Young Players

Don't Believe Everything You Read

by Ben Clanchy

Tip #2 - Judge Judy is a Hack

Dear Uni Students, here's a chance to add to that bunch of critical and analytical tools that they've been foisting upon you. Try sifting the good oil from the shit in this column. First proposition: Having a Journo for a Daddy doesn't make a writer from a hack. It just makes a well-connected hack. Judy's last column (and let's hope it is his last) contains all the usual tired, trite and regurgitated nonsense that we've come to expect from this rag over the last year. I thought we'd progressed beyond that.

Not having the space here to address all of Judy's inanities, let me restrict myself to the one festering scab that he appears unable to stop picking at — that of the student politician. Student politicians (please define) are an easy target. It is both easy and intellectually lazy to paint them simply as self-serving egocrats who use political office to further their own ends. Unfortunately the shallow caricatures that we have received in the past from Judy of 'student politicians' bear little scrutiny. In fact, the very people who are motivated to the political arena on campus by selfishness quickly discover that the game is not worth the candle. Really, they could be out there making and spending real money like the rest of us rather than sitting on yet another shit-boring university committee defending student rights — let me tell you, it's not very glamorous. Rather, people who tend toward self-aggrandizement usually end up writing for and editing student papers — and painting both

themselves and their mates all over the covers to boot. Sound familiar?

In my opinion

Judy's

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## The Nature of Obscenity

by Judge Judy

It would seem that The Judge's decision (which, incidentally, is final) on many matters in last week's column upset most who are weak of both mind and heart. Well screw you. The people are real, the cases are real and my decisions are binding so, if you don't like it... you can always try and kiss your own arse.

Still the feathers I ruffled pale into comparison to the full-scale plucking that was performed by the valiant editors of *Woroni* on one Gary Humphries. God it feels good to watch a Liberal self-immolate in his own pompousness. Congratulations comrades.

Anyway... the prudish and predictable reaction by many to my last column prompted me to consider the nature of obscenity. Just what is it about a collection of vowels and consonants, combined with certain emphasis and inflection, that allows them to be described as "offensive"?

Having had every obscenity in the history and languages of the world flung at me at one time or another, I have never exactly been able to see the fuss caused when people are confronted by any particular phrase or word. I am, for instance, constantly confused by the inability of those hailing from various minority groups who, having had a life time of assorted name calling directed at their unfortunate person, are left only with an expression of dumb rage when confronted by a put down in adult life. One would have thought that years of practice would have left most with a veritable ammo dump of come-backs — but often this is not the case. I can only assume that (unfortunately) most are not as clever as I.

Some of my favourite obscenities are Australian colloquialisms; "I wouldn't fuck **cen-on** a footy trip", a colleague of mine said of **sored censored**. Who could but agree? "This song sucks ring!" exclaimed a friend recently, punching at the radio (actually American in origin I suspect, but there's nothing wrong with that. I intend to use this evocative and singularly hilarious expression quite frequently from now on.)

An absolute corker was relayed to me by a girlfriend who, describing her anticipation after having picked up a very large Tongan man in the pub, delightedly broadcast the following: "Oh boy! I bet he's got a baby's arm!" This was an oldie that I had previously missed but I don't think that they're are many that can hold a candle to its poetry. The very image of a pale, dismembered infantile limb sends shivers up my spine, but the very fact that it's so utterly ludicrous never fails to send me into

paroxysms.

Obscene lyrics in songs offer some of my favourites. For sheer nastiness Big Black's Steve Albini rarely fails to send a jolt to the brain. "I think I fucked your girlfriend once, maybe twice...I can't remember. Then I fucked your friends' girlfriends... and now they hate you."

Whilst sheer awfulness has its place, the true kings of the comic

obscurity must be Milwaukee group "The Frogs" whose topics include raping their mother (even more bizarre when we consider that their mother often appears at their concerts), making fun of the parents of dead drug addicts, slavery and baby paedophilia. Sample lyrics: "Hot Cock Annie, here she comes, nobody cares about her

she's the one with the cock and the vagina...combined...take her from behind."; "I've been calling 'em coloured for years and still they call me prejudiced, when AIDS broke out I cried alongside the queers...I pissed on the quilt, I had to go, and they call this a free country!"; "Everybody's makin' a big deal that I raped someone, I don't know why, I had fun!"; "My daughter's missing so I'll call the authorities, I hope she hasn't been raped, this world's a mystery to me. She was a straight A student from Tennessee, just a little bit mentally retarded, but as parents we never notice these things." If "growing up" is not finding this stuff funny, then just call me Peter Pan.

Another favourite are the 80s punk group the Angry Somoans whose classic attack on a West Coast radio DJ still remains fresh. "It's Friday night, Rodney's on the air and he's jerkin' off into Joan Jett's hair. It's Friday night at 8 O'Clock, two hours of Roxy music and Bowie's cock is his idea of new-wave rock." Nice.

Another personal attack on a rock identity begins as an hilarious faux-ballad in the style of 60s English folk and quickly cuts into an horrific stream of bile, "Jerry Cohen is sensitive, likes meeting people...DRIVES FERRARIS, HAS SEX WITH MIDGETS, FUCKS HIS MOTHER UP THE ARSE." The very concept that giving your mother an Oedipal backdoor workout is somehow on a par with the crime of "driving a ferrari" leaves me perplexed but incredibly amused upon every new hearing.

The Angry Somoans have paid a hefty price in law suits as a result of their vitriolic attacks, but unlike certain precious radio identities (ring a bell anyone) obscenities have never offended me because, frankly, the world has bigger problems. And if they offend you, then go and switch on the evening news — and try getting really offended about something worthwhile.



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**Do you want students'**

## Gimme Big Mac, fries to go

by Dr Insomnia

One of the first lessons of high school economics is that free markets ensure people will only sell products that consumers want to buy. This phenomenon is called consumer sovereignty. One of the first lessons of the real world (and more advanced economics) is that consumer sovereignty is a bit of a joke — sometimes people are imperfectly informed and buy items because of marketing rather than the products themselves. And some of the best examples of marketing that fosters a slick public image to mask less desirable aspects of a product may be found in and around any McDonald's family restaurant.

The McDonald's hamburger phenomenon is a curious one. Many people vociferously declare their profound doubts about the value of McDonald's food. Sometimes people disapprovingly relate bizarre stories about the restaurants — such as the perennial rumour that the seats are designed to become uncomfortable after 20 minutes to ensure that last half-hour's customers will make way for the next batch of diners. Yet many of these same people flock back regularly or semi-regularly to McDonald's outlets for their next Big Mac or Quarter Pounder.

Why do people who claim not even to like McDonald's find themselves eating there more often than they might care to admit? One possible answer lies in McDonald's clever use of advertising. Arguably, the McDonald's advertising pitch presents the restaurants as a dependable part of life — and even if consumers don't think of the Big Mac as a loyal friend, at least they know that a McDonald's burger is a very fast meal option. One could be forgiven for suspecting that a high proportion of the burger chain's publicity is specifically targeted at children through the use of the Ronald McDonald clown character and corporate sponsorship of children's events. Presumably, the aim of this publicity is to get children to hassle their parents to buy what looks to them like a fun product until eventually the parents capitulate. McDonald's public relations machine is nothing if not street-wise, and it is almost completely successful in distracting attention from the less savoury aspects of the burger chain's operations.

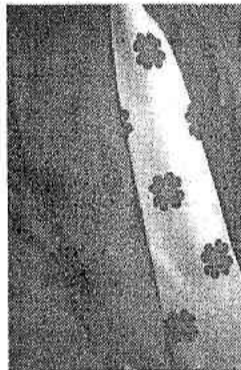
Like any purveyor of a mass-produced product, McDonald's is interested to gain the business of the maximum proportion of the public from the minimum possible product range. One can see this in visits to McDonald's outlets around Australia, with their almost identical (and quite limited) menus, which embrace only products that are likely to sell in significant quantities. For example, the burger chain is notorious for its consistent failure (even in

the politically correct and health-conscious 1990s) to offer a serious vegetarian menu option. One can only assume that this is because it is more cost effective for the outlets to exclude vegetarians than to cater for them.

Part of what one expects from a visit to McDonald's is the maniacal smile of the Ronald McDonald statue inside the door, the bored expression of the invariably young counter staff and the same old menu. Often, one also finds information claiming that the food has its place in a healthy diet, and that McDonald's is a responsible corporate citizen which participates in environmental, educational and humanitarian activities. However, beyond this façade, there is a darker side to McDonald's, as was demonstrated when the company faced legal action in the United States challenging its use of the words 'good food' in advertising, and when an English court held that McDonald's has been responsible for a catalogue of undesirable activities, including the exploitation of children through advertising, misleadingly advertising claiming that its food is nutritious, cruelty to animals and hostility to labour unions (source: judgement in *McDonald's Corporation and McDonald's Restaurants Limited v Helen Marie Steel and David Morris*, per Bell J, UK High Court, London, 19 June 1997; reproduced and summarised at [www.mcspotlight.org](http://www.mcspotlight.org)).

And what is worse than McDonald's apparent corporate ethic is that as a large corporation, McDonald's has the resources and muscle to suppress views that are critical of its products. For example, in 1990 the chain commenced legal action against two English activists who questioned McDonald's corporate conscience (again, you can find details on the World Wide Web at [www.mcspotlight.org](http://www.mcspotlight.org)). This course of action led to the longest trial in English legal history (although, as it turns out, the tactic backfired on McDonald's — the activists' defence was successful on many points and their appeal has just been heard). And in addition to the threat of legal sanctions, one can argue that media outlets might be reluctant to criticise McDonald's for fear of resultant losses in advertising revenue.

All this adds up to McDonald's being more than just a company that sells you an occasional burger. And as a result, Dr Insomnia will think carefully before he buys another McDonald's meal.



## Out On A Limb

by Treefrog

Sometimes, when people see me smiling, they ask "Why are you so happy?" "I'm not," I often reply, "I'm just a sarcastic bastard."

Sometimes the person will grimace, no doubt thinking, "Great, another angst-filled Generation-X'er. Where's the gothic make-up?", but mostly they laugh, appreciating my razor sharp (cutting, if you will) wit. You see, while in one sense my reply is true (I am a sarcastic bastard), it is also misleading. No doubt I'm smiling because I'm actually happy. Maybe I've heard something funny on the radio, just got great sex from a stranger 7 years my junior, or beaten a charge for selling mescaline (innocent until proven guilty, boys).

What I'm doing is honing my sarcasm. As I see it, a sarcastic remark means one thing on its face, but when placed in context (ie by the tone of voice, or surrounding text) implies something quite the opposite. It is also known as "the lowest form of wit."

I don't agree with that last part, but even as the lowest form of wit, sarcasm is vital, standing with cynicism, satire and irony as one of the four precarious pillars which protect our precious pseudo-democratic society from all those powers which seek to suppress and oppress us.

Democracy is the most successful method we've yet developed to give a voice, and some share of power, to the masses, but you don't need to be a Marxist to realise how imperfect it is. For a start, it's cumbersome, but even worse, it lends itself to subversion by those powers with the money and inclination to lobby politicians and undermine the interests of the people through advertising.

My point is that democracy is fragile, and you'd be naïve to think that we, the masses, can meet the big powers head on. Even assuming the democratically elected government is working for us, we are largely powerless to protect our rights as consumers, workers or free thinkers.

I know you're now getting that same sinking feeling as when a chick selling *Green-Left Weekly* makes eye contact with you in Union Court, but please stick with me. You'll see that I'm not trying to push a political barrow here, just trying to show you how sarcasm and its brethren make useful tools we can all use to empower ourselves, and attack each other.

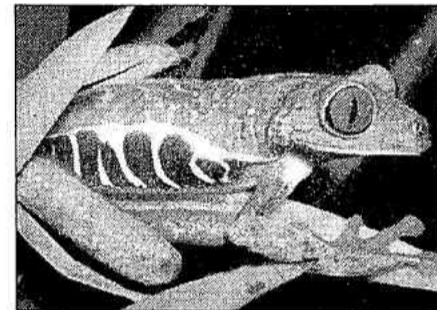
Michel Foucault told us that power is never absolute. No person or group ever has *all* the

power. And, he was right. We can't strike to get what we want, and when fifty-odd percent of the population can't get the Parliament it wants we *know* that voting does fuck all, however, cynicism, irony, satire and sarcasm are on our side.

We can be cynical of our parliamentarians, we can joke ironically as they slash funding to the arts and education to pay for business tax cuts. We can satirise our rulers and betters, exposing their foibles, and we can twist their expressions and devalue their contributions

with sharp, below the belt, sarcastic remarks.

"Oh terrific! The answer to all our problems!!" I hear you reply, sarcastically. I could respond here by explaining how the annoying mosquito can make an el-



phant run off a cliff in irritation, but that's all a load of crap. No, the great value of these types of expression is that simultaneously they are inherently inimical and irrepressible.

Anyone who has read books or watched films from the USSR which criticised communism can't have missed the use of sarcasm and irony. With attacks on the status quo forbidden, it was a successful method for dissent. Read any of the works of Jonathon Swift, from *Gulliver's Travels* to *A Modest Proposal*, and enjoy the biting satire: social critiques hidden in fairytales and rational arguments. Even when blindingly obvious, the seeming innocuousness of the work protected both it, and its author.

And as a bonus, the more we are crushed, the more bitter we become, and thus the more sarcastic. Sarcasm is not the lowest form of wit, it's the highest form of whingeing. It's not surprising that politicians with nothing better to do attack its use, wherever they find it, even in crummy student rags.

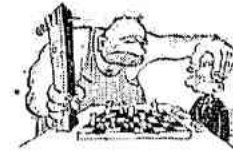
Sarcasm, cynicism, irony, satire. The weapons of the downtrodden: students, minorities, the poor. For this reason I congratulate Dorothy the Dinosaur, Arnold Jago and whoever wrote "Getting Away with It", for their entertaining use of these weapons in the last *Woroni*.

Similarly, I pour scorn on Gary Humphries, whose cheap-shot attacks on the admirably sarcastic content of *Woroni* highlight neither his intelligence nor community standing, but reveal him as a... [censored for legal reasons]... in a tin-pot legislature. No, that's not sarcasm, that's my opinion. Subtlety obviously goes right over his head.

# attention?

Advertising in *Woroni* can be fun and exciting. For a list of advertising rates, sizes and deadlines, contact Stephen Still at the *Woroni* office on 6248 7127.

# Club it to Death



**Challenge Club**  
10th March: Pizza Eating Challenge. Hope you had fun.  
27th March: EnVogue Pool Challenge. Free for members. Prizes and drinks and good stuff.  
10th April: Blind-folded Putt-Putt. \$4 for 36 holes. Dinner and going out after not included.  
<http://student.anu.edu.au/Clubs/Challenge>

**ANU Chess Club**  
The 37th Doeberl Cup is coming up! Last year there were 205 entrants from beginners to Grandmasters. Being Australia's Premier Weekend Chess Tournament there will be \$10000 in prizes and is a great way to get into competitive chess. The event will be held over the Easter Long Weekend, April 2-5. The venue is Fenner Hall 210 Northbourne Ave, ANU.  
For entry forms phone 62910385 or email [Andrew.A.Greenwood@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:Andrew.A.Greenwood@student.anu.edu.au).

**Left Labor Club**  
Movie: Wag the Dog — 6pm, Tues 16 March — HA Tank. All welcome. \$2 entry with nibbles.

**The Japan Club**  
Sake Party will be held on Thursday 25th March from 8pm @ Burton & Garran Hall. Entry is \$6 (non-members \$9). Contact Caroline on 6267 4529 for tickets.

**Socialist Worker Student Club**  
Upcoming events:  
★ Film Night 7pm Wednesday March 17 @ Manning Clark Centre 6, "Rocking the Foundations" — The story of the NSW BLF green bans. Entry \$3/\$5 or donation.  
★ Socialist Worker Meeting, 7pm Thursday March 18 @ Crisp Go10, "Ruddock on the Rampage: Do migrants steal jobs?" All welcome.  
★ Jabiluka Palm Sunday Rally: "STOP JABILUKA MINE, LAND RIGHTS, NO URANIUM". 12:30 Sunday 28th March @ Garema Court Civic, March to the Aboriginal Tent Embassy.  
★ NUS National Day of Action for Higher Education. Wednesday 31st March @ 12:30 in ANU Union Court, March to DEETYA.

## ANU Muslim Association (ANUMA)

Assalamu alaikum  
Welcome to ANUMA — the campus club that represents the second largest faith in the world. ANUMA has organised the provision of halal food at the Asian Bistro, a prayer room and transport to jummah, as well as a weekly study circle. Other highlights on the ANUMA calendar are the visits of guest speakers; who in the past have included Canadian academic Dr. Jamal Badawi, South African scholar Ahmed Deedat, and the Imam of the New York mosque Siraj-al-Wahaj. There is also the popular annual dinner, Islamic trivia nights and excursions. A sports day was held for the first time last year, featuring an indoor soccer tournament and badminton. Contact Mohamed at [masood@ozemail.com.au](mailto:masood@ozemail.com.au)

## ANU Landcare Volunteers

We've been in action for two years providing student volunteers to help out with different Landcare and Parkcare projects in the ACT and NSW. We have also learned a lot about how to put on a good BBQ and keep beer cold no mat-

ter how far we travel from a fridge in the course of our Landcare activities. Activities will include participation in land rehabilitation, wildlife surveys, tree planting and anything else we can come up with. Come along and sign up, membership is free, contact [david.klatt@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:david.klatt@student.anu.edu.au)

## Psychology Society

We're not about lying around on coaches talking about your mother. We provide career information that you will not get anywhere else via several seminars run by psychologists in a range of occupations. Last year our events also included film nights, BBQs, Pizza Fests, a wild Karaoke Night, a lavish Gourmet Picnic and the pinnacle of our year — the annual Sydney Trip. This trip included seminars from psychologists working in Long Bay Correctional Centre, Westmead Hospital, and the Aids Counseling Service as well as social activities including dining, shopping, clubbing, and sordid — oops, assorted — other Sydney activities. You can contact the Committee by sending e-mail to us at [psychsoc@bigfoot.com](mailto:psychsoc@bigfoot.com) or by leaving a note at the Psychology office. Re-



member — if you want to be a psychologist (or have no personality — or even one personality too many) the Psychology Society is definitely for you!

## East Timor Relief Association

ETRA is a self-funded NGO run by Timorese volunteer staff and their supporters with a focus on relief, development, educational and advocacy work. For information about membership and ways you can help support ETRA, please contact ETRA's ACT Liaison Officer, Fiona Crockford: 6249 4749(w), 6248 9715 (h) [Fiona.Crockford@anu.edu.au](mailto:Fiona.Crockford@anu.edu.au)

## Amnesty

The ANU AI group boasts a long and successful relationship with staff and students at the

ANU. We meet at 12 on Thursdays at the Bridge above the Uni Bar, and anyone with an interest in human rights is invited to attend. Meetings comprise letter-writing, debates, videos and guest speakers. Last year over 2000 letters were sent off — congrats to all involved. Regular drinks nights, and (check this for originality) croquet tournaments are also planned. If human rights is your thing, please come along and join us in OUR bid to do OUR bit for the worldwide campaign to end abuse of human rights.

## Sri Chinmoy

He's the name behind the ANU's longest-running meditation group. The Sri Chinmoy Meditation Group is presenting two meditation courses in March. Learn to meditate — become more relaxed, focus yourself, or get in touch with your own potential. The courses are free of charge. Phone 6248 0232 for more information.

## So you want to see your club in print...

- (1) Want to get club stuff published? Then get off your arses you apathetic bastards. Follow these instructions:
  - ★ Write to us at [woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au)
  - ★ Put 'CLUBS AND SOCIETIES' in the subject field. If it's for our noticeboard put 'C&S BOLLARDS' in instead. You may be edited for length and/or content if necessary unless marked 'for publication in full or not at all'. Sorry.
- (2) Didn't get a get a guernsey? Here are some possible reasons:
  - ★ You were late — No redemption.
  - ★ Your email contact is wrong — tell us your correct address.
  - ★ Your email contact has changed — tell us the old one and the new one
  - ★ You have no email — join the 20th century before the rest of us leave it for good. No redemption.
- (3) Be organised. If our contribution rate is anything to go by and if organisational skills are a survival imperative then in a thousand years we'll all be a) Socialists; b) Christians; and c) Drunk as skunks (the Challenge Club is always on time).
- (4) Oh, and no paper submissions. We've got enough to type as it is.
- (5) This section brought to you by Katherine Giles, Shaun Tipson, Ben Clanchy, the number 7, the letter C, the emotion bitterness, and the colour vermilion. XXX

## C&S Thumbs Up

- ★ Thanks to Market Day organisers & helpers. The club world thanks you.
- ★ A big thumbs up to the Law Society who have taken their publication on-line to save paper and postage. Find it on the Society's 'homepage' ([student.anu.edu.au/Clubs/LawSoc/](http://student.anu.edu.au/Clubs/LawSoc/)).
- ★ Jason Wood and the rest of the crew at the Union for finally taking an interest in C&S.

## C&S Thumbs Down

- ★ The Psychology Society for dumping on us at the last moment. A hint for next time — if you can't make a deadline, let people know so they can substitute it with something else. You suck. Just try getting something published in the future. Har har har.

## C&S Soap

- ★ What's going on in the Labor Party? In the ongoing saga of Labor Party factionalism, our sources tell us that the Labor right on campus has managed to block Labor Left's affiliation to C&S, thereby

depriving them of funding, photocopying etc. Apparently the argument that the Labor right put forward was based mainly upon duplication of resources.

In keeping in this vein we suggest that the committee disaffiliate all but one Christian group (why not go the whole hog and just have one religious group catering to all those people who are 'spiritually inclined'), all but one political group (we feel that the Socialist-Workers Student Club could adequately represent the diversity of views across the student political spectrum), and all but one group having printed publications. You're standing on our toes.

## C&S Late News

The Clubs and Societies Committee has denied refusing to affiliate the ANU Student Republican Preamble (Drafting Committee) Club (Centre-Left Faction).

**Erratum:** *Left Labor Club* wishes to rectify its wording in the last edition of *Woroni* from "corrupt" to "allegedly corrupt". A disaffiliation action against the *LSC* is currently pending before the C&S Committee of the SA.

# info section

## Student support services

### Students' Association

The ANU Students' Association is responsible for student representation — on many university committees, to the media and to Government. The SA supports and assists students in all aspects of university life. If we can't help you, we will know who can.

Location: first floor, Union Building (above the bar). Ph: 6249 2444 [studasso@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:studasso@student.anu.edu.au)

### Student Welfare Officer

The Student Welfare Officer provides information, advocacy and referral for students needing assistance with Austudy, Youth Allowance, housing, financial difficulties or other practical and social issues.

Location: the Students' Association Office, first floor, Union Building. 9:00am-4:00pm, Monday-Friday. 6249 2972. [sa.welfare@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:sa.welfare@student.anu.edu.au)

### Health Service

The University Health Service is primarily a GP service for all students, their spouses, partners and children. Consultations are directly billed to either Medicare or Medibank Private (for international students).

Location: ground floor, Health and Counselling Centre Building, North Road (next to Sports Union). 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday to Friday. 6249 3598

### International Education Office

The International Education Office provides information, support and advice to international students. Students are always welcome to discuss any questions or concerns they may have, or to drop in just for a chat.

Location: lower ground floor, Chancellery Annex. Phone: 6249 4643

### The JABAL Centre

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student support

Centre on Campus is able to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in all aspects of their studies and University life, including supplementary tutoring in specific disciplines and assistance in dealing with Government departments, University faculties and administration.

Location: Lower Melville Hall. 62493502

### Study Skills Centre

The Advisers in the Study Skills Centre work with students, undergraduate and postgraduate, on issues relating to their academic work.

Location: lower ground floor, Chancellery Annex. Phone 6249 2972

### University Accommodation Services

The University Accommodation Services office is a 'one-stop shop' for student and staff accommodation enquires relating to Hall and College accommodation, referral to the private rental market, group housing and the University's Endowment Accommodation Bursary Scheme.

Location: Brian Lewis Crescent (building no. 77 on the campus map) near University House  
Phone: 6243 3100 [uni.accom@anu.edu.au](mailto:uni.accom@anu.edu.au)

### Careers and Employment Centre

The Careers and Employment Centre provides counselling, information, and employment advisory service. Students at all levels can discuss such matters as the career implications of their course choices, the nature of graduate employment, and job seeking. A casual and part-time work service is also available.

Location: lower ground floor, Chancellery Annex. 9:00am-5:00pm, Monday to Friday. 6249 3593

### Counselling Centre

The University Counselling Centre offers a free and confidential counselling service to all students assist with problems or difficulties affecting your study or personal wellbeing.

Location: First floor, Health and Counselling Centre building, North Road  
9:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday. 62492442  
[counselling.centre@anu.edu.au](mailto:counselling.centre@anu.edu.au)

### The Dean of Students

The Dean of Students, Selwyn Cornish, takes a general overview of the academic and personal welfare of all students in the University. He is also concerned with the allocation of scholarships and prizes. He provides students with an opportunity to obtain advice and help on grievances or difficulties of any nature relating to their studies, accommodation, personal or financial welfare.

Location: Room 110, top floor, Chancellery Annex. Ph: 6249 4184. [Dean.Students@anu.edu.au](mailto:Dean.Students@anu.edu.au)

### Disability Support Unit

The Disability Adviser provides advocacy, advice and support services for students with a disability. Loans of equipment, alternative examination arrangements and services such as notetakers can also be arranged.

Location: Room 1, H Block, Old Administration Area. Hours: 9:00am-1:00pm, Monday to Friday. Ph: 6249 5036. [disability.adviser@anu.edu.au](mailto:disability.adviser@anu.edu.au)

## Useful phone numbers

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Youthline: 6257 2333

Action Buses, Timetable Info: 6207 7611

Medicare (national info line): 1800 020 613

ACT Ombudsman: 6276 0111

Centrelink

Appointments: 13 10 21

Youth Allowance: 13 24 90

Newstart: 13 28 50

Canberra Hospital: 6244 2611

Calvary Hospital: 6201 6250

Domestic Violence: 6248 7800

Rape Crisis Centre: 6247 2525

Freecall: 1800 424 017

Emergency Accommodation Services:

Ainslie Village: 6257 5923

Beryl Women's Refuge: 6247 5689

Canberra Youth Refuge: 6247 0330

Samaritan House Men's Refuge: 6247 6691

Southside Youth Refuge: 6231 2221

Salvo's Community Services: 6247 3635

Smith Family: 6285 4000

St Vincent de Paul: 6282 2722

### Drug & Alcohol Services

Alcohol & Drug 24hr Helpline: 6205 4545

QUIT (Smoking Cessation Service): 13 18 43

### Advice & Information

ACT Consumer Affairs Bureau (Product Safety): 6207 0722

AIDS Action Council ACT Inc: 6257 2855

Gay Contact: 6247 2726

Lesbian Line: 6247 8882

Tenancy Advice (Welfare Rights): 6247 2177

Tenants Advice Service: 6247 2011

Women's Health Info Line: 6286 2043

Legal Advice: Legal Aid Office, 6243 3411

Pregnancy:

Information & Counselling: 6248 6222

Support Service: 6247 5050

Rental Bonds: 1800 422 021

Residential Tenancies Tribunal: 1800 451 292

Dept. of Education & Training: 13 22 81

Aerial Taxi Cabs: 13 22 27

NRMA Roadside Service: 13 11 11

### People to whinge at

ACT Chief Minister (Kate Carnell): 6205 0101

Minister for Education, Training & Youth Affairs (David Kemp): 6277 7460

Prime Ministers Office: 6277 7700

paid advertisement

# Cheryl Kernot MP

**THE ANU LABOR STUDENTS' CLUB PRESENTS AN EVENING WITH CHERYL KERNOT MP AS GUEST SPEAKER AT THE GALA SOCIAL EVENT OF 1999. EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ATTEND.**



\* Drinks and nibbles are included in ticket price.  
\* Keep an eye out for other prominent Labor identities.  
\* \$15 for LSC members, \$25 for non-members.

**Wednesday, 31st March 1999: Parliament House**

**ANU Labor Students Club**  
[labor\\_students@hotmail.com](mailto:labor_students@hotmail.com)  
[therealthing\\_anu@hotmail.com](mailto:therealthing_anu@hotmail.com)  
0409 824 556

The ANU Labor Students' Club (LSC) was established in the 1960s. It is a political and social organisation that successfully represents mainstream Labor ideals and promotes the Australian Labor Party on campus. The Club has a strong tradition of political involvement and achievement at the ANU. The LSC is affiliated with National Young Labor, the UC LSC, and has the support of the ALP National Secretariat. The Club's patrons are Annette Ellis MP, Member for Canberra; and Barry Jones, ALP National President.

*The ANU Labor Students' Club: The original and the best!*

Written and authorised by I. Barr for the Labor Students' Club, ANU Students' Association.

ISSUE #2, WORONI 1999 15

# Why Drink-Drivers

## or, The Reason Deadly Serious Things Must Be True

As a general rule the content of student newspapers is ignored by the mainstream media, which assumes (often correctly) that such papers are being run by persons with a tenuous grip on the concepts of 'truth', 'facts' and 'literacy'.

But as you may have been aware, *Woroni* has recently attracted a fair bit of media attention — we even got on CNN International as the feel-good 'aren't foreigners funny' story immediately after the weather. This was all caused by an article that contained humour too subtle for ACT Attorney-General Gary Humphries, radio 'personality' John Laws, and that bastion of quality tabloid journalism *The Daily Telegraph*.

Apparently, the article strongly endorsed drink-driving. After re-reading it, we believe it only endorses poor attempts at satirical comment.

Anyway, we thought we better clear the problem up. But how? Then something occurred that, if this was a soap opera, would be declared an unbelievable plot twist: Gary Humphries was, that very day, holding a 'Meet the Minister' forum for concerned citizens. We were pretty concerned about him using the mass media to kick *Woroni*, the ANU student population, and student unions in the teeth — so we paid him an unannounced visit. Now delve with us, your irresponsible editors, into the painful journey of discovery where we learned that Drink-Drivers GO TO HELL...



Left: Gary actually asks his minders, "Are you sure there's no-one waiting before these two?"

Below: Gary faces the blowtorch that is *Woroni* investigative reporting

Left: Gary meets and greets concerned students.



*Gary talked and talked and talked some more, so we can't put in everything he said — but here are the highlights. He certainly got stuck in from the word go:*

"What you put in was not frivolous or unuseful to someone who wants to drink and drive. The thing that struck me immediately was that it was a practical guide to avoiding the police.

"I see this article as a serious dissertation on how to avoid getting caught whilst committing a crime."

*So why did he, instead of contacting Woroni directly with his concerns, make a media circus out of the whole thing?*

"Well, a Liberal Attorney-General and the people who run *Woroni* traditionally don't see eye-to-eye

on many issues. I didn't anticipate that you would be amenable to the point of view I was making... I'm surprised to see you here so perhaps if I'd come to see you it would have been possible to produce a different response...

*Gary thinks this solitary article 'is the best reason he has seen for voluntary student unionism'. Now hear what he has to say about other*

*services — like health care, counselling, and subsidised food — that would be lost if VSU was introduced:*

"I don't think those services will necessarily be cut by virtue of VSU. My view is that student organisations need to demonstrate to their members that they are effective and good value for money. Students are still likely to contribute for those services."

### The Four Phases of Gary...



1. The argumentative

2. The pensive

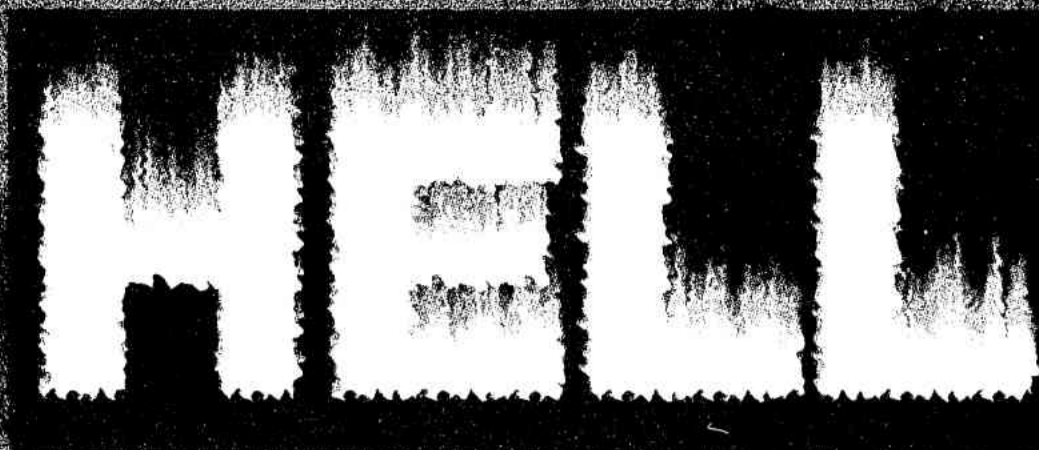
3. The slightly embarrassed

4. The thinker



# GO TO

## *Treated Deadly Seriously*



### **A response to "Getting Away With It"** *From the gloating CURio (UC Student Newspaper) team*

How to publish a socially irresponsible article and get away with it.

Getting yourself and your views published safely after a fortnight's writing at *CURio*, *Woroni* or wherever, presents the only really big problem for those lucky enough to write for a campus magazine. So here is a handy guide to getting away with socially irresponsible writing.

Please note: *CURio* does not endorse socially irresponsible writing. Irresponsible writing is stupid. It is dangerous to your uni magazine and others. Don't be a bloody idiot — don't write while drunk.

(1) One method, particularly beloved of one *CURio* editor, is to read an article for dodgy material, edit it, then read ahead. This method is time consuming and we only recommend it if you don't trust your writers. But it will ensure that you don't get sued.

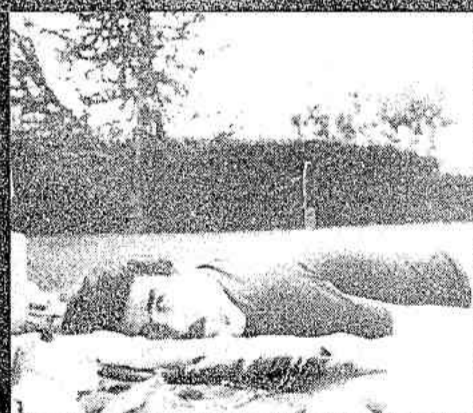
(2) If you happen to be writing away and see a socially irresponsible article

on the screen, stop, have your lawyer or a clever friend (if you have any) check it. If they say "You'll never get away with that," listen to them. There is a fine line between freedom of speech and impulsive bravado.

(3) This may seem particularly obvious, but don't publish something that causes people to question the validity of Student Union funded projects at the precise time Compulsory Student Unionism is being scrutinised by several different groups just looking for an excuse to put uni students in their place and keep them there.

(4) By far the best way to avoid getting done is not to write socially irresponsible articles. Even with disclaimers and ironic "Only a total fuckerhead wouldn't know we're joking" entries, there are still people out there with no sense of humour who don't get the *Woroni* thing. We call these people 'Adults'.

## **The Antics of Gary...**



### **Woroni would like to thank...**

*Woroni* would like to extend a sincere thankyou to the following people and organisations who have supported *Woroni* and the ANU Students' Association over the past few weeks: The BBC, CNN, Rod Quinn (2CN), James Valentine (2BL), Helen's Indies (especially Evelyn), Janina Jankowski (former *Woroni* editor), Triple J, *CURio*. Our media advisors, Clarissa Thorpe, Erica Lewis, Graeme Blank, *The Canberra Times*, Our supporters at the ACT Legislative Assembly, the Prime News team especially Eleanor Gregory, Carmen Currie, Katherine Giles, Angelique Jerga, Matt Tinning, Sylvia D'Souza and anyone else we have forgotten.

Now, some things come back to haunt us. Things have come back to haunt Gary, too —namely photos in a 1982 *Woroni* of our esteemed Minister (then SA President) rolling around without pants. We reproduce these photos so the educated and intelligent ANU student population can make up their own minds: was Gary's act of 'mooning' consensual or not? Please note: *Woroni* does not condone the crime of indecent exposure.

Gary says: "I was very much interested in putting my pants as quickly as possible, but that person there was holding my legs. I suggest you two go home and the two of you try it out and see how easy it is to get them back on." And what about Chief Minister Kate Carnell and her recent car accident, which some people have (maliciously and without any foundation) said involved an excessive consumption of alcohol?

"Well, she went to a cricket match, and on the way back had a car accident. I wasn't there so I'm relying on the version of events that has been put to me. She asked the ambulance officers if there was any need for her to stay; they said she didn't have to. She left, but afterwards the Police notified her she would face a prosecution of some kind over it. She says she did not drink and drive, and I have no information as to whether she did

or she didn't, but I believe her to be a truthful person... She did break the law, and I don't think she has any pride in the matter." So remember, kids: drink driving is bad and very uncool. And we're not just saying that to save our worthless arses. Anyone interested in hearing the whole conversation is more than welcome to drop by *Woroni* and listen to Gary's silky, persuasive tones.

# fluff

## Links to Make You Think

by Barry the Sprout

One of the most enduring features of student life is poor nutrition.

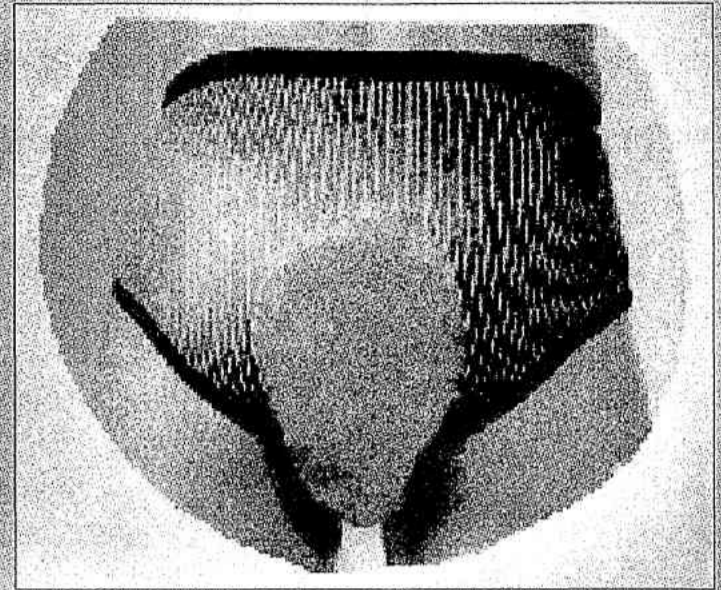
Whether meals consist of the multiply-reheated bacteria culture medium at the catered halls of residence, or the various permutations of cheese, spaghetti and toast available to those who cook for themselves, the fact remains that the food we eat is usually chosen from the more eclectic areas of the proverbial pyramid.

Unfortunately, the organisms that inhabit our nether regions vent their grief at the student diet in a particularly pungent manner, which — while providing a rich source of humour to foresters and engineers — tends to undermine your credibility as a jaded post-wankerist philosopher of life, no matter how much leather and faded

denim you wear. Many students are also doing their stint as vegetarians, which only makes things worse.

Fortunately, the researchers at <http://www.fartypants.com> have solved this problem, using an activated carbon filter (allegedly developed to protect troops from nerve gas attacks during chemical warfare). The filter is worn in the underwear in a similar way to a panty liner, making it both convenient and unobtrusive. Now that the tell-tale fart smell can be eliminated, the student poseur may easily blame the associated noise on a passing Harley, and never be suspected of having let rip.

Apparently Calvin Klein is developing a new line of underwear made entirely of the filter material, with an ad campaign starring Kate Moss and a plate of beans.

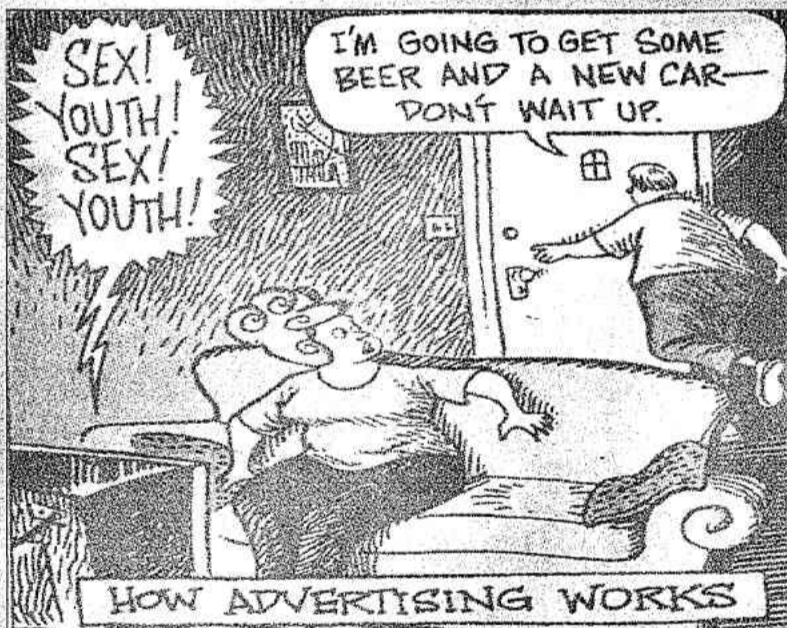
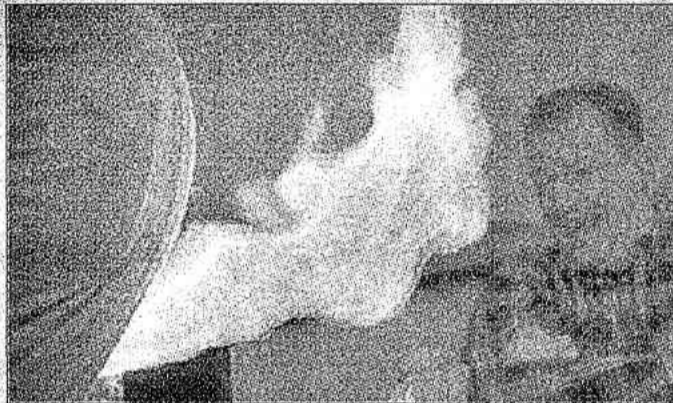
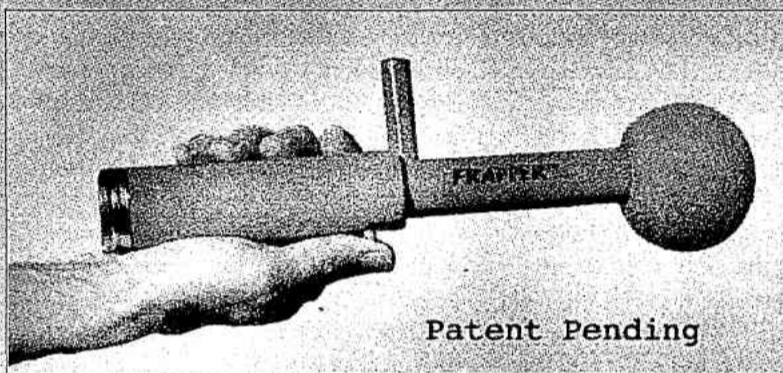


Some novel things to do with your farts:

(above) Absorb them with this fashionable underwear.

(left) Light them up and have a laugh. Please note "Don't try this at home"

(far left) Fart into this gun and send your farts flying across the room.



## The Goon Cask Gimp Sez...



Need a more creative way to get absolutely toasted, while at the same time losing the last shreds of your meagre dignity? Then "barnyard bonanza" is the drinking game for you. Sit in a circle with a load of alcohol in the middle, and everyone selects a barnyard animal sound (squeal like a pig is my personal favourite: reeeee reeeee!). Pick someone to start, and that person makes their sound followed by the sound of another person. The person with the other sound then makes their sound, then someone else's. If anyone hesitates or forgets their sound, it's down with a shot. Another variation of this game is "drunken orgy", in which the barnyard sounds are replaced with different sex-related noises. A "Barnyard Orgy" version also exists, but that's only for freakin' perverts.

(below) "from the secret files of Max Cannon"



## Punnet de Apologia

by Kristern Nunney

I do not consider myself a vain fellow. In deed, I have lost count of the number of times I have heard the following incredulously exclaimed:

"Marry, yonder puckish rogue doth clothe himself in the most unseemly raiment!"

My response to such barabed gibes is to smile sardonically, and to stride on with an air of superiority commensurate with my disdain for the vagaries and ostentations of fashion. If readers require a more vivid image, they need look no further than the Good Book and find the character of John the Baptist. Of course, I neither have a taste for honey-eyed locusts, nor do I possess a predilection for immersing the faithful in the River Jordan.

So, I am, as a general rule, more the dags dangling from the arse of the ram of the King of Colchis than its legendary Golden Fleece. But I will admit of one iniquity. My confession is that I am narcissistic in a peculiar way. When I catch my own reflection, I am not held fixed by my own beauty but rather the steadily growing expanse of my own forehead.

That the fringe is indeed thicker on the other scalp is an observation that takes precedence over consideration of, say, the moral rectitude of Bill Clinton, or Mark Taylor's splendid captaincy, or the vacuity of Daryl Somers. And if you see my eyes falling upon you for longer than is perhaps polite, my countenance a mixture of mild consternation and mournful longing, fear not. I am not trying to instigate a certain type of assignation with you. No, I am envious that your hairline does indeed begin from your brow and not your crown, or I am simply mapping and comparing your advanced or impending follicle degradation to my own.

But I am determined to meet my fate with a resolute heart. Grace and dignity, I hope, will remain loyal companions. The trouble is that that which is thought distinguished in an older man cannot necessarily be applied to a younger man. For he that is afflicted with Alopecia could not possibly slay a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass.

Testosterone, the very "essence" of masculinity, together with a particular genetic disposition ensures that many men will lose their hair. I read somewhere that the only way to cheat destiny is to lop off one's love spuds before the ravages of puberty take hold. Now, castration may have been an acceptable life style choice in the ancient world, but I wager that very few would acquiesce during modern times, even if it means staving off inevitable baldness.

As well as having a profound love of irony, Mother Nature is also a spiteful cow. For as my fringe diminishes, the treacherous keratin proteins turn up in other less desirable regions. This probably has something to do with some perverse manifestation of the law of conservation, but my shoulders and back are a testimonial to those little bastards.

Life will perhaps come full circle. As the hair in my nose and ears grows longer and thicker, as I am sure it will, I shall be able to style it lattice-like over my perfectly smooth pate.

## Comments from the Men's Office

### Episode 1: The Phantom Menace Born to Rant

"Due to lack of idea this column will not have a first sentence, please begin from the second sentence".

Because really it sucked arse! What needs to happen is the Students' Association needs to pull it's finger out, tell Intercol to get fucked, and hold it's own end of O-Week piss-up, FEBTOBERREST, or at least provide funding for counselling services for those students who are struggling to cope with their newfound sobriety.

One the topic of the Students' Association please remember to turn up to the General Meeting where we will attempt to rename it "David Boon, Australian Icon".

Our ten reasons why the Lame Day In sucked:

1. There was no pole for half-naked men to shimmy up while totally smashed.

2. From experience all drinking in the morning should be done at breakfast (love your work champagne breakfast organiser, we promise we'll give back those four bottles sometime).

3. Twenty people does not merit the

adjective "big".

4. At the old bar slug if you went for a walk you'd run into twenty people you know, be offered thirteen free-drinks, have sex at least three times on Fellow's oval and piss on multiple doors of the Law building. This year you were lucky to start a conversation with a security guard.

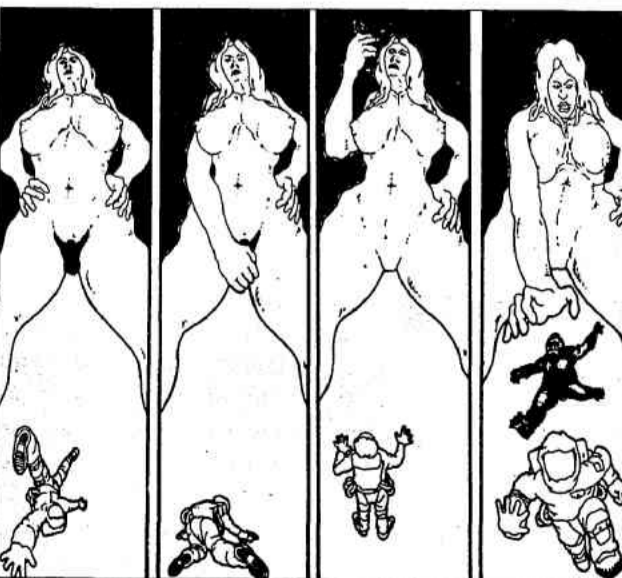
5. All the colleges were selling VB.

6. No girls were using the guys' toilets as a result of the line being too long at the ladies.

The only positive of the day for us was that at 3pm when we decided this event was too crap to continue, we sold our wrist-bands for three dollars. So the day wasn't a total loss.

O-Week on the whole was more of a downer than your mum taking you to a bush dance. Our only chuckle of the week comes from everyone's favourite MLA who seems to believe the contents of *Woroni* have anything to do with VSU. Quite frankly Gary Humphries, you can lick my anus.

Nick Westcott and Matt Gallagher  
*Self appointed Men's Officers and bad examples for all.*



## Sister Gwen

Dearly Beloved,

Your kind editors have asked to write a column in *Woroni* to counter the blasphemous obscenities that otherwise fill it. I am the founder of



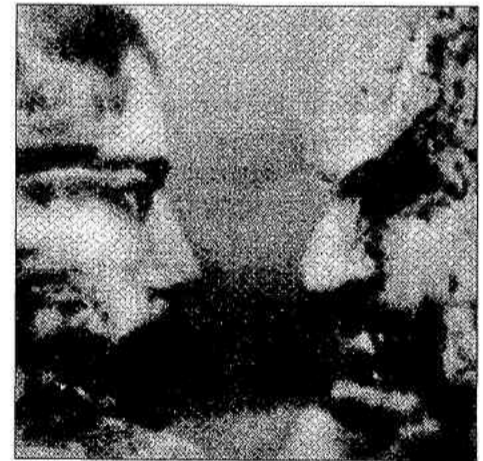
The End-Time Handmaidens of Christ. No, we're not a cult, but a well attended 'literal' Church based in Arkansas.

I write today about something momentous that is happening. Recently the faces of Jesus and Satan have been seen over Texas (see photo). The Final Battle between Good and Evil has surely already begun. I believe that great and mighty things have been happening in the invisible world; for over a month now we have been sensing the presence of the Awesome God in a very tremendous way. You can feel it.

I will conclude with a poem designed to keep your strength flowing:

*There's a fire burning,  
Falling from the sky  
Awesome tongues of fire  
Consuming you and I.  
Can you feel it burning?  
Burn the sacrifice!  
Oh, sweet fire,  
Let it burn over me!  
Come and burn over me!*

Please send donations to: End-Time Handmaidens Inc, PO Box 447, Jasper, AR 72641, USA.



*Woroni* published this cartoon in issue 1. A number of people contacted us to voice concern about it. The Women's Department has accordingly asked us to place it in context: it was first published in *Woroni* in 1974 as a symbol of the empowerment of women. The printer pulped all copies, considering the image 'pornographic'. Determined to let the readership decide, the editor managed to have it printed elsewhere. It has now become a legendary image amongst editors and feminists.

Investigative reporter Penny Jones uncovers important aspects of this legislation that will effect you, the ordinary ANU student...

The media has had a love affair with the Federal Government's proposition to make student fees optional. Most of us saw an embarrassed Government dodge accusations that it would cut funding to universities who defied the laws. For some people, this issue is just a bargaining chip amid larger issues like tax reform and employment. For us students, voluntary student unionism could dramatically change our university lives. What are the economic and political ramifications for ANU students?

Currently, every student pays a General Services Fee of \$180 when enrolling at ANU. No fee, no degree. This fee entitles us to discount food, drink and entertainment. It subsidises our Sports Union, our facilities and our festivals. It provides counselling, study help, and accommodation bursaries. It also pays the Students' Association to protect our rights by representing us on various councils.

Our General Services Fee is lower than that of many other universities. According to Students' Association President Helen Stitt, "everybody runs on zero funding. Look at *Woroni*, for example." Could our money be better spent? Not according to Helen. "We've got a particularly accountable system at the ANU." A finance committee allocates the funds to the Union and many other groups. The Union and Students' Association must then put in a strict budget, which is audited yearly. "It would be impossible to stuff it up."

Tim Dixon, President of the ANU Liberal Club disagrees; if students paid their fees only if they wanted to, our services would become much more efficient. "At present the Sports Union and the Students' Association get over 2 million dollars a year — year in, year out. That's not an incentive for them to be cost-effective." A budget of how our fee is spent could have shed considerable light on their efficiency. However, these figures were unavailable.

According to detractors, most prices will rise with voluntary student unionism. We will pay more for leisure activities, student services, and essentials like food. Many people worry about the future of O-Week. Tim assures us, "O-Week wouldn't be got rid of, because it's one of the popular events that caters to all students." If less of us pay our fee, what will happen to the cost of beer at the uni bar? According to Tim, that's irrelevant. "I pay \$180 General Services Fee to



drink at the uni bar. The beers are cheaper at Workies, and I pay \$5 to join there. The uni bar runs at a profit, as does the whole Union. And imagine how much beer I could buy with the other \$175."

A form of voluntary student unionism already operates in Victoria and Western Australia. The system proposed for the ANU closely resembles that of Western Australia. When Western Australian universities introduced voluntary student unionism, only 16% of students paid their fees in the first year. For Tim Dixon, "that shows how out of touch the student unions were." He adds that the University of Western Australia's union fees more than halved with the new system. The student guild reduced its operating costs through restructuring, and enhanced "the profitability of its various business arms." Nevertheless, the guild is already in debt, suggesting that it may have to continue reducing services, if it is to survive. If less ANU students pay less money, won't voluntary stu-

with few other commitments — can free-ride on the financial contributions of everyone else."

Helen Stitt refutes this argument. "Working-class students have other avenues they can benefit from." Voluntary student unionism will disadvantage "the people who use our second-hand textbooks. The people who come into emergency loans because they need to eat." She disagrees with the rich-free-rider argument, saying, "kids who are really loaded don't come into our old Students' Association building with a roof full of possums, to use a broken-down photocopier. Daddy will do it for you, at CopyQuick."

Despite the importance of these economic issues, they have taken a back seat to the political debate. Helen insists the voluntary student unionism proposal is "part of a move to crush collective organisation. The Liberals can't win on campus, because their agenda is negative and damaging. Their only solu-

# The hidden c

dent unionism decrease student services here? "In WA it hasn't. It might decrease some, but only those catering for loud minorities at the expense of the rest of us. AnRdent unionism will seriously injure "general community life. Imagine uni without O-Week, Bush Week, Blue Stocking Week, free student diaries and newspapers..."

Furthermore, says Helen, "we'd be forced to do membership drive. The University of Western Australia Guild spends the first three months of the gone year doing membership drive, instead of concentrating on O-Week." Yet, despite their hard work, experts doubt that more than a third of WA students will pay their fee. Tim argues that "if they do a good job, they'll have no problem getting members. The WA legislation has shown that you don't have to force students to have fun."

Financial changes always worry those with the least money. Opinion varies widely on how voluntary student unionism will affect needy students. Minister of Education David Kemp says he is correct in abolishing the compulsory fee, because "some simply cannot afford it...A few may have to drop out or defer their courses; many more will have to borrow or delay other necessary expenditure...Because the fee is compulsory, a certain type of student — full-time,

# Costs of VSU

tion is to federally legislate. It's a hideous use of power."

Tim retorts, "the issue is whether, to attend uni, students should be forced to give money to a student organisation they don't necessarily support. If just one student has to donate money to a political organisation just to further their education, it is morally wrong. If, say, 500,000

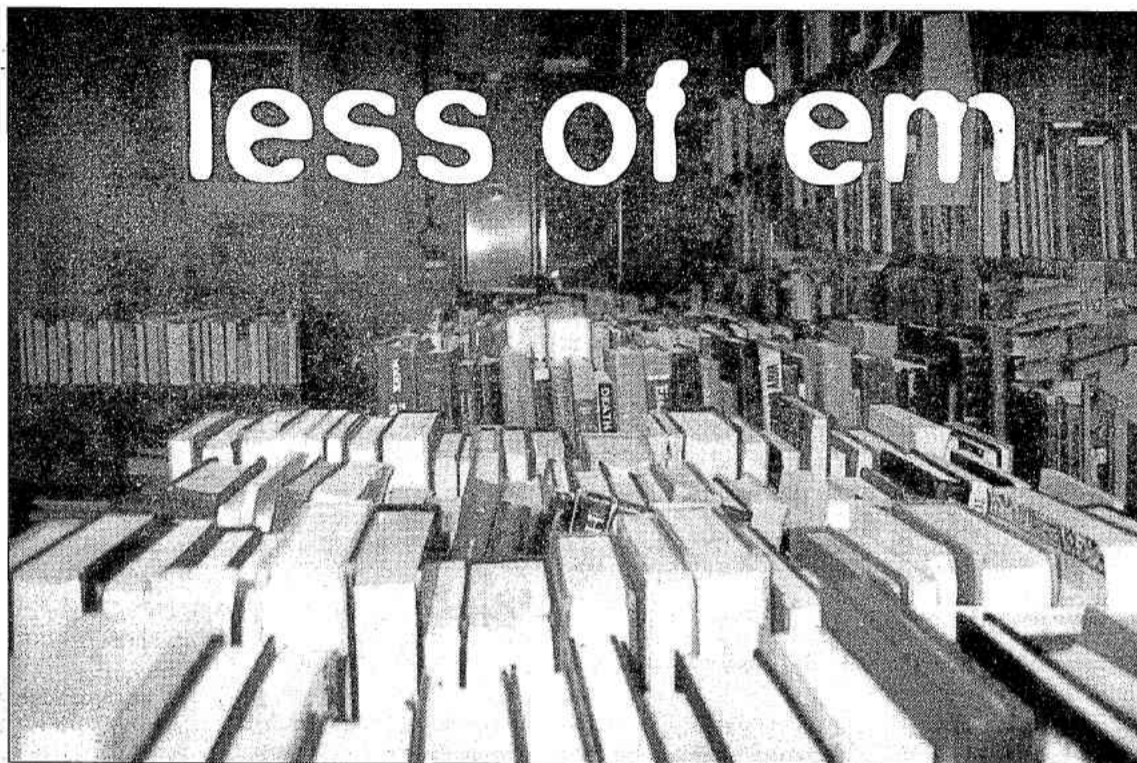
across Australia have to, then it's a bloody outrage and a national disgrace. The people who support compulsory student unionism are generally student politicians and those who thrive on the compulsory student unionism structure. They're saying they can spend our \$180 better than we can."

Students' Associations generally work for causes directly related to students, such as government cuts to universities. Yet they have a history of supporting political causes: the liberation of Palestine, the abortion debate, womens' liberation, queer rights... Tim claims, "we've already spent tens of thousands of dollars being affiliated to the National Union of Students. The Students' Association sent down six student politicians to an utter farce of a conference in Melbourne, with travel and accommodation all paid for out of the student pocket. The education officer is paid just to organise rallies and other forms of extremism." Some students object if their fee supports a cause they consider wrong. Others complain that their fee simply serves student politicians' agendas and increases their profiles.

Helen firmly rejects the accusation that voluntary student unionism is wasted on power-hungry student politicians in "their air conditioned offices in the Students' Association." "That's one of my favourite ones, when you look at who's saying it: Nick Tolley, President of the Australian Liberal Students' Federation; and Gary Humphries, the 1982 Students' Association President in this very building." She insists that the Students' Association is committed to the university. "No one can get away with doing nothing. You'd get kicked out at an AGM. And you give up a year of your life. How could you turn your back on it?"

Nevertheless, a portion of our fees support student politicians and, as such, student politics. Political scientist Patrick O'Brien writes that, since left-wing ideas currently dominate student unions, compulsory fees "effectively represent a \$20 million as-

sault on the Liberal and National parties - much greater than the ALP's advertising budget for a federal election." However, the political right is not immune to such accusations. "Whoever got in power allocated disproportionate sums to their own vested interests," says a senior Monash campus official from the 1970's. "Even Kemp's own area of political repre-



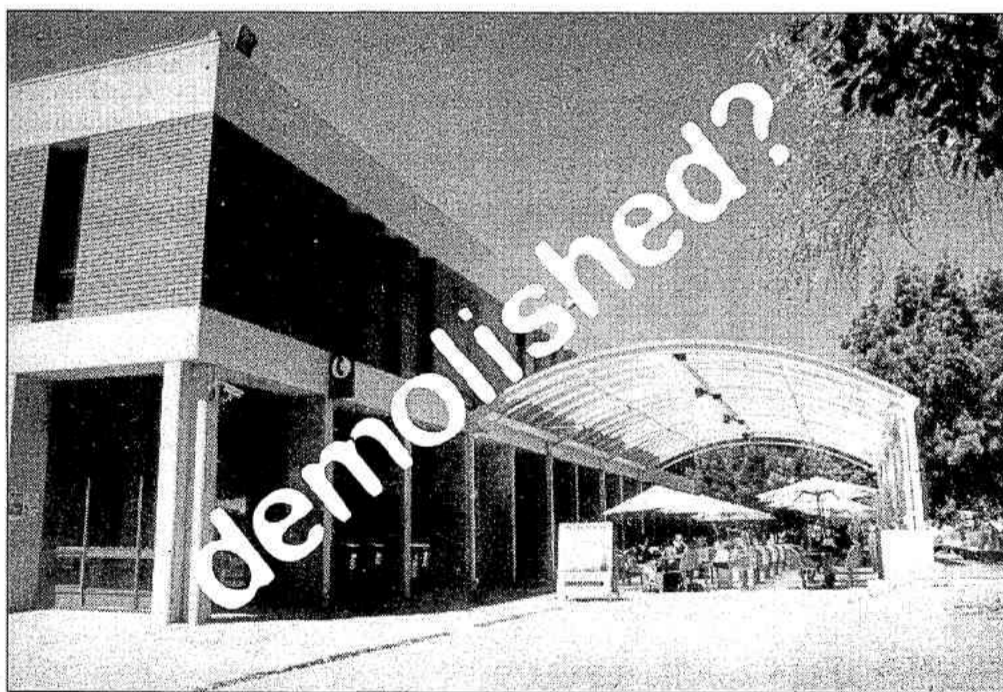
sentation is structured in recognition of this fact. After all, has anyone heard the Liberal Party proposing to return its funding from the public purse (which includes a contribution from the majority of voters who do not vote Liberal)?" in the words of Canberra

will save people from supporting services they don't use, and give them the freedom to spend their money on political causes they support. Tim Dixon suggests that "the seat on the uni council would still be elected from all the students - members and non-members.

So there would be no decrease in the already somewhat limited mandate held by them." Voluntary student unionism would simply give students the power to decide the future of their university.

For others, voluntary student unionism is the Government's callous political manoeuvre. The National Union of Students dubbed it an "ideologically driven attempt to crush student organisations." Students' Association President Helen Stitt and Vice-Chancellor Deane Terrell fear "the vital support services offered by the Students' Association will disappear if voluntary student unionism is introduced." They believe "the ANU model should be considered as an alternative to the Government's concept."

Change is imminent. The government expects to pass this legislation next week, and the Vice-Chancellor is "unlikely to defy it". At the University of Sydney, about 500 students began a campaign by forming the letters "NO VSU" in the university quadrangle. Many others believe the proposed legislation is a major step forward in the development of university life. It's up to us, the students, to let the Government know what we want.



University Postgraduate Association President Russell Ayres.

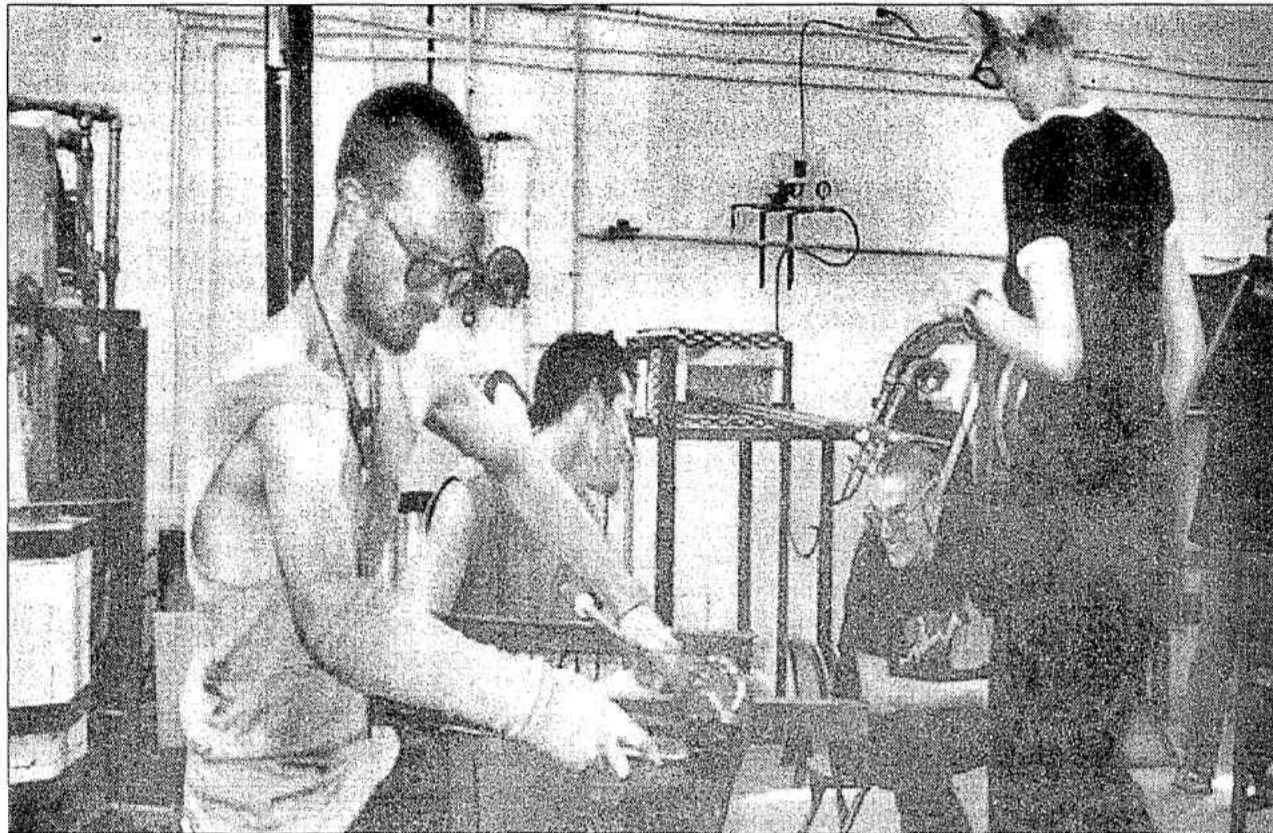
If the government succeeds in passing the legislation, the ANU will not be new to voluntary student unionism. "The beast of voluntary student unionism comes in many forms," says Helen. In 1976, Arts student Peter Berzins refused to pay the then-compul-

sory student fees. Part of the money supported the Students' Association's pro-abortion campaign, which Berzins' religion opposed. Although he eventually paid his fees, his action fuelled Liberal students to campaign for voluntary student unionism. In 1979, Parliament ruled that, while the university continued to collect fees, these were allocated according to the number of members in clubs and societies. The Labor party overturned this ruling when it returned to power in 1983. Another major outcome of the Berzins case was that the ANU printed a "tick-a-box" on the enrolment sheet. Says Helen, "you could tick whether or not you wanted to join the union. A vast majority joined. That way, they could vote. But it became an administration hassle. People were still joining, so they got rid of the tick-a-box. That's how we got today's system."

Under the current system, students who read their Handbook will know that, while the General Services Fee remains compulsory, Union membership is optional. "From the time of registration of enrolment the student has the right at any stage during the academic year to withdraw from membership and then to resume membership of any of the student organisations by informing, in writing, the student organisation concerned."

The Government's attempt to implement voluntary student unionism has raised many questions. For some, it's a necessity. It

# It's A Stuff



## Profile: THE CSA GALLERY

The ANU Canberra School of Art Gallery presents an annual exhibition program, with related publications and associated events, which critically frames Australian and international visual art practice. At each end of the academic year Post-Graduate and Graduate work is presented in a professional gallery context highlighting the achievements of the graduating students.

The CSA Gallery plays an integral role in the ANU Canberra School of Art's overall education mission. Professional gallery staff advise students and staff on exhibition and gallery procedures; curate exhibitions; liaise with students and community groups in access gallery projects; contribute to the teaching of Professional Practice; and promote wherever possible the students and staff of the CSA.

The public role of the CSA Gallery provides one of the crucial links between the University, with its community of academics, artists and students, and the wider community of Canberra and the region. The exhibition program reflects the CSA's educational priorities by presenting artwork in a variety of media by nationally and internationally renowned visual arts practitioners.

The CSA Gallery is supported by an active group of volunteers. Their donation of time to the work environment makes them a much valued part of the Gallery team. Volunteers work with the staff on a wide variety of exhibition, public program and office management tasks. They contribute their skills and learn from the Gallery staff, broadening their experience and knowledge of the running of a vibrant contemporary art space.

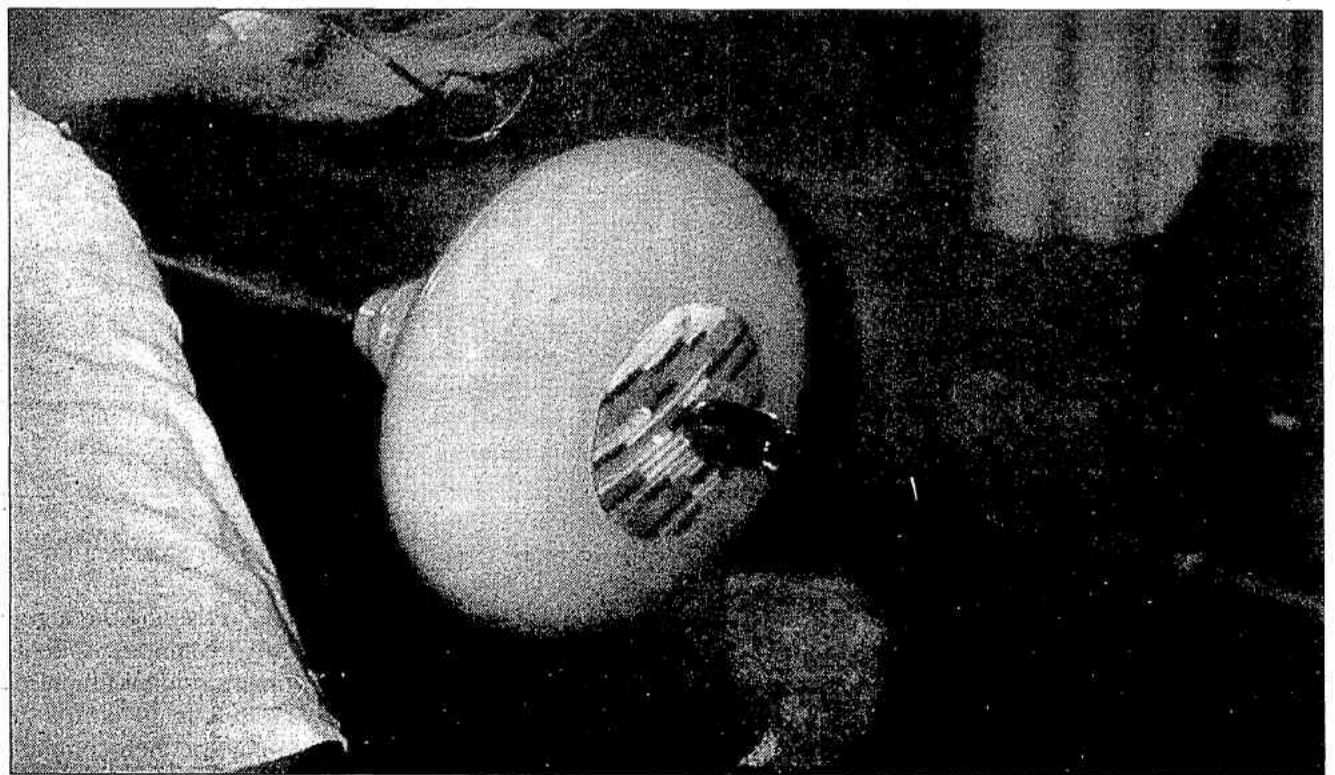
The next exhibition at the CSA Gallery is *Latitudes: Bullseye Glass in Australia*. It opens to the public from Friday 26 March.

In 1995 & 97 the CSA Glass Workshop hosted workshops which allowed practitioners to explore a new kind of glass which has the potential to be used in both blown and kiln formed techniques. As a result of these workshops the exhibition *Latitudes: Bullseye Glass in Australia* was developed. The artists selected for the exhibition are Giles Bettison, Jane Bruce, Scott Chaseling, Ben Edols & Kathy Elliott, Ken Ikushima, Elizabeth Kelly, Klaus Moje, Stephen Procter, Kirstie Rea, Tom Rowney and Robert Wynne. In 1998 the exhibition travelled to Japan and to Bullseye Connection in Portland, Oregon. The CSA Gallery is the first venue of an Australian tour. Noosa

Regional Gallery will host the exhibition in June 1999 and in October the exhibition can be seen at the JamFactory Contemporary Craft & Design Centre, South Australia.

Take the circumstances which have led to this exhibition. A person here sees the potential of a tradition there, carries it to another place, talks about it, tries it out, encourages someone else, who sees the potential and experiments with that, who encounters the first person again, who takes it home, shows it to a student, who travels to another place and sees someone teaching something similar, and so on...

What is it that leads to such a fortuitous chain of events? Certainly, it is embedded in the tradition of the extraordinary subculture of collaboration which has always been at the heart of glass. More importantly, it is the allure of the medium, the alchemical essence which produces these marvellous, almost hypnotic objects. Without the passionate attachment we have for these objects — truly a modern form of



Both photos taken from the exhibition catalogue *Latitudes*

### What's on at ANU

#### Canberra School of Art Gallery

Open:  
Wed-Fri, 10.30am-5pm.  
Sat-Sun, noon-5pm.

26 March-23 April  
*Latitudes: Bullseye Glass in Australia*  
International touring exhibition  
Curator: Merry Gates

Please contact CSA Gallery for further details.  
Ph: 6249 5841

#### Llewellyn Hall — Canberra School of Music

Friday 19th March  
Australia Chamber Orchestra

Friday 10th April  
Australia Chamber Orchestra

Contact ANU Ticketing Services  
Ph: 6249 5491

#### ANU Drill Hall Gallery

Open:  
Wed till Sun, noon till 5pm.

3rd March till 28th March  
*Stigma*  
An exhibition by five Melbourne artists  
addressing issues relating to the body.

Curator: Aileen Ellis  
Ph: 6249 5832 for further details.

fetishism — these connections would not survive and reach the heights we are fortunate to witness in *Latitudes*.

It is an international touring exhibition supported by the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body; Bullseye Glass Company USA and ANU Canberra School of Art.

Location: Corner of Ellery Crescent and Liversidge Street Acton

— CSA Gallery

# canberra scene

## ★ Indyfest '99 ★

Liquid Entertainment presents the all ages Indyfest '99 at the ANU Bar as part of the Canberra National Multicultural Festival. Indyfest starts at 2pm on March 20 with tickets \$10 concession and \$15 full price. Bands playing are: The Way Hip Antelopes, The Yarts, Bufftundrel, Bock, Hoolahan, The Mighty Few, Liquid, The New Wave Failures, Ephemera, and the Closet Stiffs.

Katherine spoke to Bruce Ryan from Liquid Entertainment, organiser extraordinaire.

**K:** How did you get involved in Indyfest?

**B:** I got involved because I was involved with a band that got on the bill, five or six years ago... I was stage managing for the last four or five Indyfests and then the last one that was in 1997 the people who were involved in it had moved on and had been with it, and I sort of kept the candle going. Originally it showcased local bands and had a bit of a festival atmosphere. To get a few bands together and I've sort of picked that up. I hold fast to that rule in terms of that I think it should be a showcase of local bands and the act of getting a few good bands together.

**K:** Most of the bands on the bill are local aren't they?

**B:** The only ones that people might not recognise are Hoolahan and the Yarts. But all of the bands have a Canberra connection. A couple of bands that have made the grade, mixed with a couple of bands that have maybe never played at that sort of level before.

**K:** Do you feel that it is getting harder for bands to get gigs in Canberra?

**B:** In terms of venues that is a different issue. I understand what the bands are saying in terms of there being not enough venues. There was a time when places like the Asylum were there to support the local scene even though they did get in interstate bands. But there have been other places that have opened up after that, I mean there is Gypsy. The big problem is that there are other things to do, (K: Nintendo), B: the dance scene which is great, they've done such a good job.

**K:** Do you see it as a good way to promote local bands through an event like Indyfest?

**B:** I think the reputation behind Indyfest is that there is a good line-up and it's a good show. A lot of good bands have come through and cut their teeth on Indyfest; Sidewinder, Liquid's, Henry's Anger and a few of the other up and coming young bands that have finally made the grade and are ready to move on. You're likely to see the cream of the crop at Indyfest, it's a good show. In the past we've had market stalls and skateboarding competitions.

**K:** Will they be happening this year?

**B:** Due to the renovations in Union Court we were unable to do that this year. So this year we will be focusing on the bands and possibly coming back to the festival atmosphere later on.

**K:** Is it important for you that Indyfest is all ages?

**B:** ... the last two shows there has been a definite effort to cater for the all ages crowd. A lot of that was because young people don't feel like they're getting the same sort of option as the adults do... if they're going to give then we've gotta give something back too.

**K:** What is your view of the Canberra scene?

**B:** I actually think it is bloody healthy at the moment. I mean when I look at the bands that missed out on being on the bill, there are a lot of really good bands at the moment... I am a big fan of Canberra, it is not just a government town, there are a lot of other industries here now. Canberra has a healthy history in terms of its past musicians: Midnight Oil, Whidams, and Sidewinder are some of the bands that have come out of here. The potential for the future is huge... and so hence it has been important to be a part of the Canberra Festival and showcase young Canberra Bands. I would like to leave anything behind when I move on from Indyfest, that would be the legacy, of promoting and helping along Canberra bands and the Canberra music industry.

## For the Theatre Lovers & a bit of...

Company B Bellow present *Judas Kiss* following a sell-out Australian premiere at the '99 Sydney Festival. Exploring two critical moments in the life of Oscar Wilde: the day of his decision to stay in England to face prison for "acts of gross indecency" and the night two years after his release when the lover for whom he risked and lost everything betrayed him. Among other things *Judas Kiss* is described by *The Australian* as "Other pretty bodies, male and female, adorn the scene occasionally favoring naked and evoking a world of carnal desire." Besides the naked revelry, the play has been described as director David Hare's greatest play, and the hit of the Sydney Festival. *Judas Kiss* promises to be an experience of excellence and elegance.



Once again it could be possible that another Student newspaper turns into another pop-rock hymn to the tunes of the bible of consumerism. If you would like to send in some 'stuff' about what is happening in your Canberra Scene, phone: 6248 7127, or email: [woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au).

## From My Corner of the World: a triumph of colour

Canberra Museum and Gallery, located at 176 London Circuit, is showcasing the work of South African Ndebele women as part of the National Canberra Multicultural Festival. The artwork features the symbolic geometric designs that originally adorned the house walls of Ndebele people in an attempt to ward off malevolent spirits and since the lifting of repressive cultural barriers in South Africa, the murals have now become paintings on canvas. The exhibition will continue until the 11 April.

## Something else

Thurs 11 March: NEXUS: retro, electronica, indie, gothic, industrial in conjunction with EYE & aya (electronic-industrial-darkwave-grind artists). Then every Thursday of each month 10pm @ Heaven, Garena Place Civic.

Can you see a world of problems with no solutions? Tune into Radio Freedom, Fridays between 11am and 12pm, four a different point of view and find out what is really going on in the Canberra scene. An hour of anarchist views from around the world, including anarchist history, discussion and an anarchist cultural spotlight. @ 2XX — 1008AM Community Radio. 2XX is moving to 100.7MHz FM in 1999.

## '99 Word Festival

19-22 March, presented by the word festival Canberra, at the National Library and ANU. It is an event for all the booklovers — panel sessions, writers, writers talking about their work, readings, launches and more. Contact Judy Pearce for more information on 6249 7068.

20 March: launch of the ANU Writers Directory produced by the ACT Writers Centre. The directory contains listings of editors, web designers, workshop tutors, bookshops. All welcome, refreshments free, copies free. Contact the ACT Writers Centre on 6262 9191.

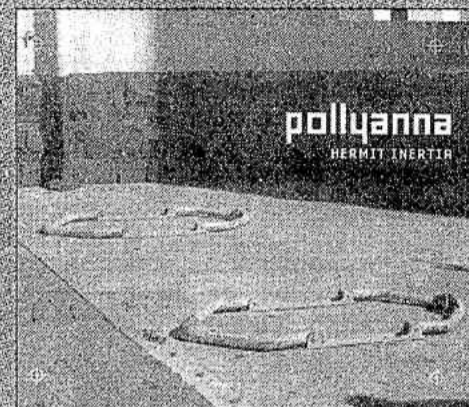
## Uni Bar

Upcoming dates include: March 12, Way Hip Antelopes and Friends; March 13, Beaver and Linocut; March 19, Ball and Supports; March 20, Indyfest; March 31, all ages Reel Big Fish, Nancy Vandal, and All Systems Go. On April 16, the Uni Bar hosts Billy Bragg supported by Rebecca's Empire and May 22, The Black Crowes.

Don't forget to support the great ANU Union Bar in the face of the evil, evil, evil VSU.

## Free Stuff

Unfortunately Pollyanna's April spot at the Gypsy bar has fallen through at present but *Woroni* has four copies of their new single 'hermit inertia' to the first four students who email Katherine Giles on [g3065493@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:g3065493@student.anu.edu.au).



## Offshore... not just another festival

Offshore '99: the last wave of summer hits Torquay from 2-5 April. Featuring Ben Harper & the Innocent Criminals, Blink 182, Custard, Jon Spencer Blues Explosion, Area 7, Reel Big Fish, Cruel Sea, Guttermouth, The Fauves, Pollyanna, Something For Kate, Game Over, 99 Reasons Why, Ping plus local acts. Offshore is three huge nights of camping, music, surfing, and barbecues. Infoline: 1900 931 335. Or get webbed: [www.offshore.net.au](http://www.offshore.net.au).

## what's on

**sat 13 march:** RnB, Soul, Hip Hop party on the '99 long weekend. Dj nini brown, Dj patrick, Dj sam, mc uncle AB, + special live performances by dancers and rappers. @ Private Bin nightclub.

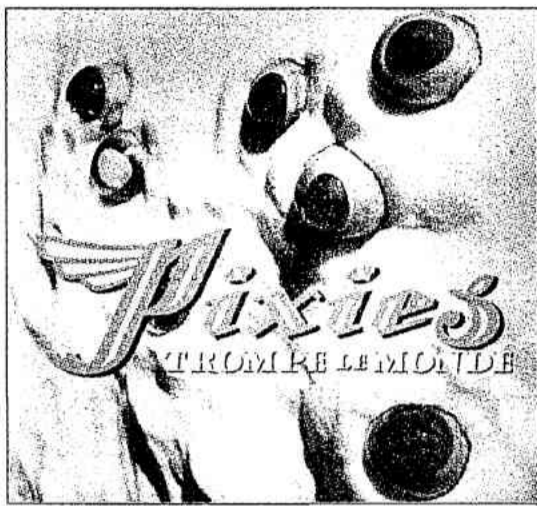
**wed 17 march:** custard UCU Refectory.

**fri 19 march:** breakout: Canberra's premier beats and breaks night @Heaven.

**sat 20 march:** Mass Grooves, blue room, Garena place. Five innovative djs: goldfinger, ben henderson, yaya, brother j, and paulie. Heaps of giveaways, visuals and a soul ripping consumer paradise fashion parade. [www.goldweb.com.au/massgrooves](http://www.goldweb.com.au/massgrooves)

**sat 27 march:** Miles of Smiles 3 at the iguana cafe, UC. Fink Enterprises and G-Man present in the main room: fink, infusion, simon caldwell, sub bass snarl, chris fresh, archies, jeremy joshua. Back room: wiz, kaos, flotex, morphix, ben henderson, speedloader. There will also be linked up projection playstations and full length movies. Tickets are available, \$17 @ Landspeed, music shop, ucu, and songland.

# Trois Voix



Pixies  
Trompe Le Monde  
1991

From the mid eighties to the early nineties this legendary four-piece from Boston blazed a noisy trail across the world, leaving a mark that's still alive in guitar bands today. Armed with a basic production, and fuelled by one of the most maniacal front men in rock, Black Francis, the Pixies released five of the more influential albums of the past few decades, inspiring others like Kurt Cobain and Thom Yorke. In 1991 they released *Trompe Le Monde*, which was to be their final studio release, and a fitting farewell from a band with truly no peer.

"Fool the World", The French translation is also the title of the opening track. In under two minutes it sets the standard for what's to come as Black Francis howls and screams his way through 15 songs, with lead guitar, Joey Santiago providing ample dynamics. On an album of classic songs, stand out tracks include *Alec Eiffel*, *Letter to Memphis*, and *Bird Dream of the Olympus Mons*, where the protagonist dreams of flying to the highest peak on Mars. But perhaps their most beautiful and coordinated offering is *Motorway to Roswell*, an epic tale of sadness about the alien crash at area 51.

Bob Mould, of husker Du and Sugar fame once said: "When I heard the new Pixies album (*Trompe Le Monde*) I was kind of jealous. In its first four minutes the record lays out more ideas than some bands do in their careers".

—Henry Kinkle



Jack Kerouac  
On the Road  
1957

I bought *On the Road* three years ago at an airport on the eve of a long plane journey. Since then my copy has been thumbed, bent, coffee stained, and even bled on. Nestled in the binding are grains of sand from when I took it to the beach. I can't remember which beach because I've re-read it so many times in so many different places. At its core are Kerouac's new ideas about life which sprouted from his years hitchhiking around America. Seven years of experience was put down in three weeks of nonstop mental squeeze through a typewriter and onto long metres of paper-roll. He didn't even have to pause to change pages. It came out of the ends of his fingers, and onto a continuous ream. I cannot imagine Kerouac thinking he was clever or whether what he was writing was any good — he wrote the way 18-wheel truck drive. He just did it. What ended up with was a directness and a dumb honesty which stands out against the contrived brilliance of most acclaimed writing. Kerouac looked at ghetto-bound Negroes, outcast bums, exploited Mexicans, pockmarked addicts, and sympathised with them without reference to a sociological explanation (which cannot fail to be condescending), but with the understanding of a man who has had to scratch out his existence, and who has come to see himself in their eyes. *On the Road* is a trip through the underbelly of America in the 1950s. Its most remarkable feat is showing that holiness and a saintliness exists even amidst the most negative and mundane practicalities of the world.

—Peter P



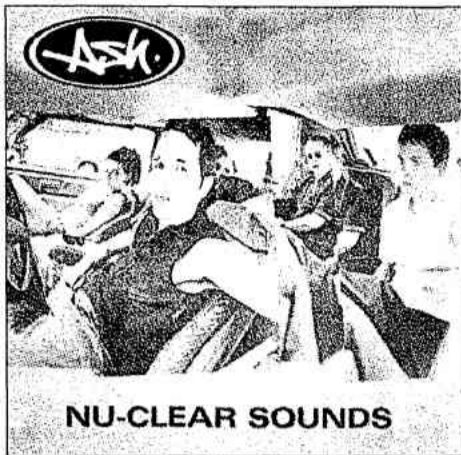
Damien Harris  
The Rachael Papers  
1980

There is much to be said for this quiet, understated, and thankfully tasteful 1980s rendition of the cocky, 1973 first novel by Martin Amis. Set in London, the plot is modest yet convincing: Charles Highway, an eccentric, nerdy, yet oddly compelling, literary type who manages, through sheer persistence to win the heart of his dream girl, the sophisticated and objectively attractive Rachel. The two share a brief and intense romp, which lasts several weeks until Charles tires of Rachel and moves on. What makes this film worthwhile is that the director, like Charles himself, recognises the importance of seizing small, life changing experiences and making them seem as significant as possible. Don't wait for Hollywood style adventures to come take you away — instead, take what you have and turn it into that whimsical, dirty teenage poetry that means so much in later life. Unassuming and yet cinematically meticulous, there is so much attention to detail in this film that even the most minor characters seem intensely interesting. The casting is flawless: Dexter Fletcher (always a bit of orright) was born to be Charles, Ione Syke is oddly suited to the role of the shallow Rachel. Other shining lights include the ever-enigmatic James Spader as DeForest, and Jonathon Pryce, who is impeccable as Norman. The book itself will leave you incredulous at the sheer hilarity and filth offered by this frank (and often disturbing) glimpse into the young male psyche, and the film would probably bear little significance if you haven't read the book first. It will seem slow meaning and pointless, until you realise how simple and naff is the message — That life is corny, relationships are corny as well, so embrace them in all their corniness and treat them as valuable experience.

—Sally Pryor







### No-Clear Sounds

Ash  
Mushroom

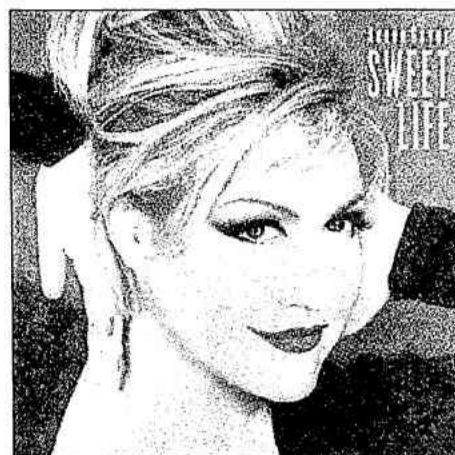
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### Eva Trout

Eva Trout  
Trauma Records

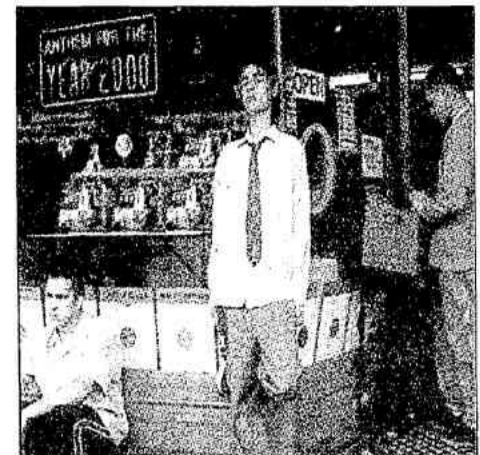
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### Sweet Life

Renee Geyer  
Mushroom

\*\*\*



### Anthem for the Year 2000

Silverchair  
Sony Music

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Two years after the widespread success of their breakthrough album 1977, Ash return with a recording that is neither particularly new nor clear but which should not disappoint the legion of fans captured by the youthful swagger and killer pop-hooks of the previous release.

True fans will probably own Nu-Clear Sounds already — the album was released several months ago and has received its fair share of Triple J airplay. This review takes as its subject a new 'limited edition' version featuring the now familiar added enticement of two 'bonus tracks'. Record company generosity or a cynical and increasingly common attempt to maintain flagging chart position — you be the judge.

Nu-Clear Sounds features more of the same without ever quite reaching the heights of its predecessor. Foxy rock chick Charlotte Hatherley has been added as a second guitarist and the result is a slightly fatter but more polished sound. Songs such as "Jesus Says" (the first single) and "Wildsurf" approach the standards of 1977 but don't quite make it; this is an album of even quality that can't quite produce standout tracks to rival 1977's "Kung Fu", "Girl From Mars" or "Oh Yeah".

It is only now as I write that I realise what appealed about Ash was the combination of garage-style three piece with talented songwriting. Ash still use plenty of distortion and they can undoubtedly play their instruments much better than before — what Nu-Clear sounds lacks is the exuberance, the cockiness that made 1977 such a fun record to listen to. Both the bonus tracks are catchy without reaching great heights, they alone should not determine whether or not you buy this album. Overall Nu-Clear sounds is not a large change in direction but signals that such a change will be necessary as Ash mature. A bridging record perhaps, but one that provides enough memorable moments to justify the continued success of its creators.

— Dan Silkstone

Who's Eva Trout? I had no idea, but after listening once to their self-titled debut album, my first answer was "they're a little bit country." I mean with an opening track titled "Beautiful South" and plenty of harmonica, the CD seemed to categorise itself. A few more listens did not dispel my first impression. They're like Frente, country-style.

A few more listens also proved to me that the album, while well produced, lacks flair. "Beautiful South" is a good example. It's not a bad song: the music has a good melody to it, the lyrics are evocative, and the vocalist Bek-Jean Stewart has a killer voice. A great range of notes, but more importantly she is passionate and expressive. However, the finished product is, frankly, uninspiring.

The rest of the album continues in the same vein. "Drivetime Radio" and "Happy Pantomime" are welcome exceptions, but my hope that the recording would start well (if not brilliantly) and finish spectacularly was disappointed, as the tail of the album just fades away. After a while all the songs sound the same: good music, and Bek-Jean's great voice, but nothing more to distinguish them from each other, or from a dozen other four or five piece bands. Frustrating, really.

Still, the band has done well for itself. They're basically a standard guitars, drums, bass and vocals five piece band from Sydney, with some real talent but not much imagination. It's a tribute to both the band and the information age that they got their record contract with a US label by emailing US radio stations, until one of them agreed to play their music.

If anything this album is too slick, too well produced. Any spark or zing that might have been present has been sacrificed in favour of combining the instruments and the voices too well. The Americans might like it, but I expect more from Aussie efforts. The talent's there, I just hope that their next CD has more attitude.

— Jason Ives

The minute I put this CD on my house mate said it was either him or the CD who left. And to start with I was inclined to agree. The first track on "Sweet Life" starts with what sounded like crescendo-ing, synthesised wind chimes. It was pretty weird and seemed to draw a lot of influence from bad eighties club music. The lyrics at the beginning of the CD were also a bit dodgy, phrases like "the bricks and mortar have been laid for our sweet love" had me agreeing with my techno-loving male housemate.

As it turned out though, by the time I'd listened to the whole CD a few times I was starting to find Renee a lot more bearable. She has a really strong sexy voice which is quite versatile. At times the music sounds like good black soul and at others like easy-listening jazz. Renee seems to do the whole black soul thing quite well for a middle aged white woman. It's really deep and strong at times and also maintains the lightness of her voice. If you like Dusty Springfield's ability in this way, you'll probably enjoy Renee too.

That's what was nice about the CD: it was nice to have playing in the background while doing other things at home. It gets heaps better, by the end of the CD the music seems to get a little more serious and soulful. It also loses a lot of the synthesiser, which was lovely. The tunes stuck in my head without getting too irritating which is a very good omen. I guess my opinion is that if you don't like jazz and mellow chic singing this is probably not the CD for you. Otherwise, it's quite nice in the background.

— May Plume

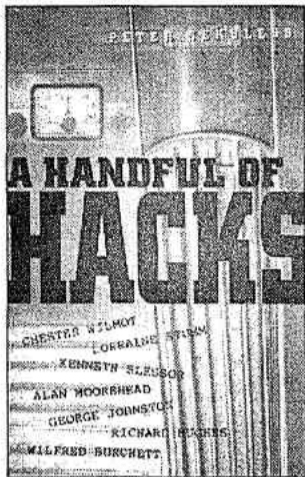
The latest single from Silverchair *Anthem for the year 2000* is another one of those power songs that Silverchair seem to be so good at. Silverchair obviously have something to say in this song but unfortunately, only they will ever know what. However, with a song like this, it doesn't really matter what they want to say, most people will probably pick up the general drift from the title. It is musically and structurally a very simple song. This doesn't mean it is a bad song. There is a lot of talent in making such an impressive song from three or four chords and a very simple drum beat. Silverchair have managed to accomplish this once again. This song is full of impressive recording tricks and techniques; Silverchair have obviously spent a lot of time to achieve the sound they want, added with some effective keyboard and overdubbed guitar, makes for a very classy musical display. I like this song, it sounds good and it has a good theme.

"London's Burning" is an Clash cover song that will feature on the forthcoming Clash tribute album *Burning London, The Clash Tribute*. I haven't heard The Clash's version and by the sounds of this poor rendition, I don't think I want to. I can't explain this song in any other way apart from a typical Clash song. Definitely a let down.

Track 3 on this single is taken from the "Godzilla" soundtrack. This tune is a slow-ish song that seems to be filled with teen angst. The line "and all I can think of are ways to die alone" indicates some kind of deep Silverchair emotion, backed up by the nice guitar and piano parts and then completed with the heavy sounding guitar breaks, just to emphasise the pain that the songwriters are going through. A nicely done song, again, with some good sounds. Silverchair are sounding very professional. What I can't understand is why someone needs to take a fine-sounding song, put some awful techno beat behind it, totally misinterpret the main riff, throw the lyrics around and shuffle them back into this pathetic excuse for a song, and call it a remix. The same terrible thing happened with "Freak." What is the deal? Silverchair don't deserve it. I can't see much talent in this kind of music, and I don't know why. Silverchair continue to do this to themselves.

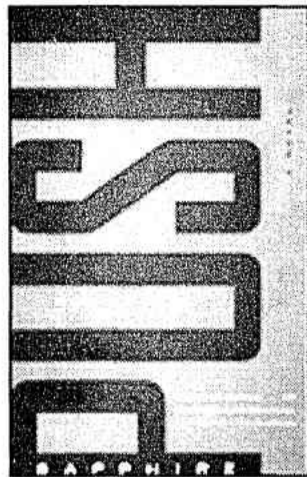
— Tom Gordon

# books



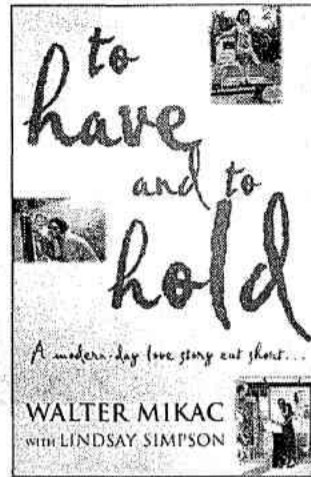
## A Handful of Hacks

Peter Sekules  
Allen & Unwin



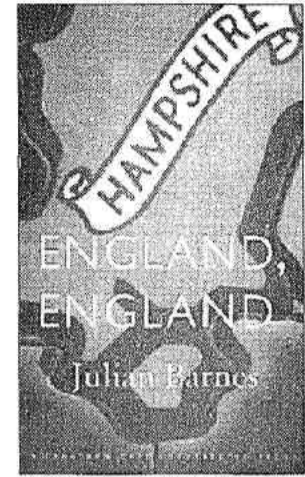
## Push

Sapphire  
Vintage



## To Have and to Hold

Walter Mikac (with Lindsay Simpson)  
Pan Macmillan



## England, England

Julian Barnes  
New Star Media Inc



*A Handful of Hacks* explores the lives of eight Australian journalists, all of whom wrote about World War II. The best part about this book is that it seems to be written out of the author's passion for his subject, and concern that some or all of the figures might be forgotten by history.

*A Handful of Hacks* is an interesting, easy read. It is certainly written for the general public — the brevity of the individual entries would probably make this book fairly unhelpful for research. As I've never even thought about the subject matter before, I found the accounts of the journalists' work and lives very interesting. I especially liked the entry on Lorraine Stumm, who as a female journalist, shouldered the worry of an absent husband in the war, the task of reporting on the conflict herself, and also the misogyny of the male-dominated newspapers.

Sekules seems to have gone to great lengths to make this an accessible book. Unfortunately, he decided not to use footnotes. The highly distracting alternative he used was to cite the books he was quoting from within the body of the text. Imagine how irritating your essays would be if you had to do the same, and you start to get the idea. It would have been far more practical to list the sources at the end of each chapter, with page references to simplify the identification of each book.

I was also extremely annoyed by whoever set out Kenneth Slessor's poetry. They made the decision to centre the alignment of the poetry in the middle of the page. Perhaps they thought Slessor didn't really know what he was doing. Yeah, right.

As a result, *A Handful of Hacks* is a comfortable introduction to a rather interesting subject. It is marred by a few of the editorial decisions, but the subject matter, and Sekules' engaging style, allow for a comfortably readable book.

— Lyn Kemmis

It is common knowledge that, in certain areas of the United States, desperate social problems beset individuals and communities. *Push* is a novel which discusses these problems in a tokenistic fashion, and without subtlety. *Push* recounts a year in the life of Clairence [sic] "Precious" Jones, an obese, illiterate, impoverished African-American girl, who is pregnant by her father (for the second time), and is abused by her mother. In the course of the narrative, Precious is diagnosed as HIV positive, and makes a heroic attempt to learn to read. The novel closes with the tales of her classmates: other oppressed young women from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. Social issues such as drug abuse and discrimination are discussed in digressions.

Sapphire's commitment to realism leads her to write the novel in Precious' dialect, which includes such charming phrases as "fat cxnt bucket slut, nxgger pig bxtch". The author's desire to let her characters speak causes her to include their journals, poetry, and illustrations. Precious, it would appear, is a nascent poet:

marY [sic] had a little lamb,  
but I got [sic] a kid,  
an [sic] HIV,  
that folow [sic] me to scol [sic] one day.

Later, the semi-literate Precious makes hackneyed invocations of Blake's 'Tyger'. So much for realism.

This is a novel filled with horrors: incest, rape, beatings, angst poetry, descriptions of 'leggings', glaring syntactical errors. Perhaps they were intended to provoke. Apparently, Precious' personal history is meant to be inspirational. Instead it is a novel which includes every social ill, in an attempt to cover all the ground, and which resorts to the most immature narrative devices. The last section, in which the same story is repeated five times, makes the didactic purpose of the novel all too apparent.

— Mark Thomson

How does one categorise this book? It is difficult even to describe. The subtitle describes it as "A modern-day love story cut short". Walter Mikac, the man who lost his wife and both of his daughters in the Port Arthur Massacre on 28th April 1996, has written about his experiences since the massacre. But it's not a story about coming to terms with the loss. It's also the story of their life together. Mikac describes how he met and fell in love with his wife, Nanette. He describes in intimate detail their courtship, marriage and the birth and growth of their two daughters. He outlines their decisions and the life they made for themselves, which has a fairy-tale quality to it. He confides in the pages of the book his feelings about his family's death, and memories of their lives.

This book was written with the help of a professional writer, Lindsay Simpson. However, it does not suffer. The work was carried out with the utmost of skill; the story grabs you straight away. Mikac's own words say it all:

Can I write a book? So many people tell me it's not something they could do. Where do I start? I'm a pharmacist, not a wordsmith. But as the words start appearing, I know I can write a book, especially with the help I am getting along the way. Our memories give me the strength to do anything I set my mind to. I can write a great book — I hope — encouraging people to live life to the utmost, to filter out things that are superfluous.

It doesn't seem right to be writing a review of this book. It's not something that should be subject to criticism, because it's not meant to be a work of art, or even a piece of literature. It's an account of one man's journey through love, and the loss of those he loved through acrimonious injustice. This is one book that shouldn't be rated.

— T. Alan Chilver

A novel which concerns itself with what it means to be 'English' might expect a lukewarm reception outside of England itself. Julian Barnes' latest novel, *England, England*, deserves a look for its mix of intimate prose and satiric sketches, and for its exploration of national myths. At points it is highly amusing.

The novel is constructed in three sections. The first is an associative reconstruction of the childhood memories of the central character, Martha. The second and longest section describes the diabolical scheme of Jack Pitman (aka Robert Maxwell) to construct an "England" theme-park on the Isle of White. Ultimately, this theme-park supersedes the original. The third section describes Martha's dotage in a hypothetical future, when England has descended into a pre-industrial state. (Scotland has thrashed England in a series of battles.) The sections are linked by thematic and symbolic similarities, and by the presence of Martha, the central character.

The schemes of Jack Pitman give Barnes the opportunity for incidental satire. He lampoons French academics, a politically correct version of Robin Hood, and corporate management practices. The focus of his wrath is Jack Pitman, who is a thin caricature of a new money entrepreneur. Indeed, the analogous character in Tom Sharpe's *Ancestral Vices*, Lord Preterghast, is just as developed a character, and Sharpe is writing farce.

It is the third section "Anglia" which is most puzzling. It is an ostensibly reactionary portrait of "Olde England", in what would appear to be its pre-modern Golden Age. Barnes, however, insists that it is "neither idyllic nor dystopic". It is unclear whether "Anglia" is seriously intended, or a spoof. Perhaps it is an exploration of another facet of "Englishness": nostalgia for the village.

The satire of *England, England*, is more pointed than the gentler wit of *The History of the World in Ten and a Half Chapters*. I think I prefer the earlier book; read them both.

— Mark Thomson

## A Simple Plan

Directed by Sam Raimi  
Showing at Electric Shadows



Hank Mitchell (Paxton) and his brother Jacob (Billy Bob Thornton) are returning home from visiting their father's grave when, along with "town drunk" Lou (Brent Briscoe) they stumble on a crashed plane in the woods, carrying a dead pilot and four and a half million dollars in cash. The trio decide to sit on the money until they're sure it won't be missed, then spilt it up and leave town. This is the "simple plan" of the title, but it quickly starts to unravel as both Lou and the slow-witted Jacob make some elementary blunders, "sides" start to develop and Hank finds himself committing more and worse crimes to hold things together.

This story moves forward through several violent set pieces that stand in contrast to the other scenes' understated (and sometimes quite sad) moments. For me *A Simple Plan's* strength was in these quiet moments, with some fine acting by Paxton, Thornton and Briscoe as their characters struggle to keep up with the consequences of their actions. Paxton and Fonda in particular deliver strong performances, as a "good" man struggling with his evil but apparently consequence-free actions, and his wife, who finds out just how far she's prepared to bend her own principles to hold on to the money.

Since comparisons to *Fargo* are inevitable, I might as well say that *A Simple Plan* isn't as good — it doesn't have the ensemble cast of the Coen brothers' film, nor does it manage the same effortless transitions in tone between comedy and tragedy. However, "not as good as *Fargo*" still leaves a lot of room to make a solid character-driven thriller, which this movie pulls off with no problem whatsoever.

— Robin Shortt

## Bulworth

Directed by Warren Beatty  
Showing at Electric Shadows.  
Rated MA



"The populace is unaroused"

I am sick of going to the movies and only having the ability to chose from a crap American film or a crap American film. *Bulworth*, a Twentieth Century Fox production, is described in the media as a sharp political satire emphasising public suffering that results from the political game. Although

*Bulworth* is slightly more interesting than the usual crap produced by

Hollywood it is nothing more than the voice of another legitimate, white, rich, male, political Hollywood player.

*Bulworth* is US white middle class guilt on the big screen aiming to highlight the oppression of all American society through the (stolen) culture and voices of Hip-Hop and rap, the oral force of a generation of African-American's in the face oppression.

When released in the US last

May, *Bulworth* was subject to unanimous praise and Beatty received the consummate labels of bravery and fearlessness. But as Beatty himself states

"I don't have an agenda what a lot of people have as an agenda for their careers. I don't think I was endangered much. I have a lot of friends here, and I'll always get another job, I think. I'm a sophisticated guy, I'm a rich guy." A safe life in comparison to an inhabitant in the world of south-central.

*Bulworth* contains all the elements of American political memory: assassination, African-American culture and poverty, the scar of 60s activism, race, class, religion, media, and the power of big money.

Ultimately the message pulled from *Bulworth* by the mainstream media is that truth is possible in the world of politics. Oh please, what a wank. How is J. Billington Bulworth any different from others who have attempted to speak the truth in the world of American politics and... well I won't ruin the end of the movie.

However it is the brief words of activist, writer and poet, Amiri Baraka, (playing the role of a homeless man) which hold the most powerful message of the movie: "you gotta be a spirit, you can't be no ghost."

Even though *Bulworth* is clever, funny, and entertaining, it

failed in the sense that it provided only a superficial critique of American politics, money and power. Essentially *Bulworth* manages to exist on the same safe shallow level as counterpart commercial American films, and so failed to take me anywhere that was extremely powerful or politically engaging.

— Katherine Giles

## Payback

Directed by Brian Helgeland  
Showing at Greater Union  
Rated MA



Any movie with a catch-line as clichéd as "No more Mr. Nice guy" is probably going to be a little skimpy plot-wise, and *Payback* (starring Mel Gibson) does not disappoint. That said, the movie is a good two hours of action, laughs and gratuitous violence. Mel plays Porter, a crook double-

crossed by his wife and his buddy Val (Greg Henry) for a paltry seventy grand. They didn't finish him off, though, so in the finest style he comes back from the dead to avenge his killers and get his money back.



The fact that his pal is now sweet with the local hood, called the Outfit, is a minor complication in a world of corrupt cops, expensive lifestyles, Asian gangsters and fast death. Camera-work is bleak, foreboding and very atmospheric. The characters are wickedly stereotyped, from the local shyster to the smug crime bosses, to the girl with a fetish for pain. Through the sinister crime-world of Chicago Porter seems in total control, giving us his usual gritty romance and the occasional moments of dry humour. Think Paul Newman in *Twilight* meets Mad Max in a mean mood.

Never mind that Porter is as bad as the people he's knocking off, this is a classic one-man mayhem flick. When not getting beaten up himself, he deals some major bodily harm to everyone in his way. And he mostly gets what he wants, despite taking on the Outfit's head honcho Bronson (Kris Kristofferson). Porter is a dark tough guy who can bleed, which is not what we expect from Gibson. Good viewing if you like that line "Don't get mad, get even."

— Kaon Bell

## Little Voice

Directed by Mark Herman  
Showing at Greater Union  
Rated M



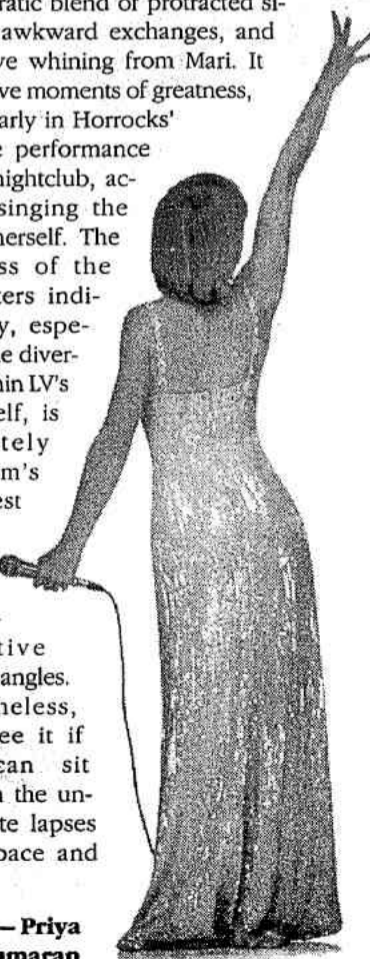
In a drab house in rainy northern England, a reclusive girl hiding behind a limp blond fringe, listens to records, bearing a secret. LV (*Little Voice*) played by Jane Horrocks, can sing, to perfection, the songs of Ella, Shirley, Marlene and Marilyn, matching their tone, accent, and even their phrases. Her talent is not recognised until the sleazy, polyester clad promoter, Ray (Michael Caine) enters her mother's life. Mari Hoff (Brenda Blethyn), with wild hair and garish make-up, is a sexual

extrovert, and her perpetual and frequently brutal nagging indicates how she might have sent her husband to an early grave and LV into a shell of silence. The plot is somewhat predictable — Ray attempts to exploit LV's talent, seducing her into performing at an abysmal local nightclub, with Mari, believing that Ray is in love with her, doing her bit. After LV lights up this dreary town with a glamorous rendition of "Big Spender" and others, unscrupulous Ray attempts to suck more from her, pushing LV to breaking point and potential tragedy.

*Little Voice* defies a single-word description. It can be hysterically comic, largely due to Mari's antics; glorious in LV's knock out performance; touching in LV's love for her late father, singing only to his memory and monochrome visions which appear at her door and in the audience; tragic in her playing out of someone repressed and misunderstood; triumphant in LV's emergence after the whole experience to overcome her mother; and ultimately heartening in the romance between LV and the loyal Billy, a pigeon-loving Telecom man, played by an ever-endearing Ewan McGregor. But is also has dark, disturbing moments, LV snapping suddenly between her mouse-like character, sexy Marilyn or a childish Judy (*Psycho*-like perhaps), using this reflection of her internal emotional instability, unwittingly almost, to defend herself against Ray's violence.

In the end, the film fails to achieve its potential and engage for its entirety. It is an erratic blend of protracted silences, awkward exchanges, and excessive whining from Mari. It does have moments of greatness, particularly in Horrocks' sublime performance in the nightclub, actually singing the songs herself. The richness of the characters individually, especially the diversity within LV's own self, is definitely the film's strongest point, helped along by imaginative camera angles. Nonetheless, only see it if you can sit through the unfortunate lapses in its pace and script.

— Priya Fivakumaran



# reports

## President's Report

A lot has happened since we last spoke. We've had Orientation Week, less than positive national media coverage, lots of developments on many committees across the university and many plans laid for the coming term. But the most positive development is your return to campus. It is such a busy time of the year, rushing for bricks, enrolling in tutes and getting used to a routine again, I'm sure the novelty of 'back to study' is already wearing off. Many of what 'could be' problems will be emerging and here at the Students' Association we are waiting to help, with loans for your textbooks, the second hand bookshop and re-affiliation for the many clubs on campus.

Another great freebie supplied to you by your Students' Association is the ANU Student Diary. This year's diary was put together by Jasmine Lee who worked tirelessly throughout the entire summer to bring you this fantastic product. She managed to send the job off to the printers in January, but unfortunately they took longer than expected to get the diaries back to us. Jasmine is a wonderful person who gives so much, so give her some thoughts of admiration next time you use your diary.

O-Week was great fun, I sincerely hope that you gained valuable insights and made many friends and now feel at home at your university. Fiona and her crew did an amazing job, it is no easy feat and Fiona is a galant and successful leader. Also, look out for the many events coming, including the week of action we'll be having starting the 29th of March. This will be a week of education seminars on many 'topical' subjects, organised by your general representatives, a rally on the 31st looking at the cuts to your education and the many other regressive federal government moves against youth and much more so keep your eye on the notice boards. This week will be the return of Parliament and many controversial bills are set to be tabled, including Voluntary Student Unionism Legislation. By now, you would have read the numerous articles, so



get involved and if you're not sure — find out, this will be the one of the most important pieces of legislation in a very long time.

In light of the past week in the Association, we put together a 'SA Newsletter' that runs through O-Week and the debacle that was the press coverage last week over an article that *Woroni* published about Drink Driving. To quickly clarify — the Students' Association does not endorse drink driving and would like to apologise to any member of the community who saw it in such a light. The Editors of *Woroni* are elected every year at the general elections, the SA has Directors of Student Publication who check the paper for racist, sexist or homophobic material and our lawyers

check it for the incitement of crime and defamatory material. This, along with the democratic process set out in the constitution, ensures that your student newspaper is how you want it. So, please take hold of these avenues if you have a grievance, or even better, write in to the paper yourself, it is yours, it is open for your contribution and it is one small part of the many services and representation that the Association provides. Student newspapers are one of the last bastions of free media and we should carefully examine the motives of those would like it shut down.

It is truly disappointing that a former President of the Association, Mr. Humphries would devalue the association he spent a year serving. We are students working for students (including the paper) and the services and representation we provide are vital to the community, this legislation advocated by the Liberal Government does nothing to ensure that the essential role that we provide survives, it only holds an irrational gun to the heads of vice chancellors across the nation.

Finally, I want to send a special thank you to our treasurer, Angelique. She is an impressive woman who devoted a large part of her summer holidays instituting reforms into the Association that makes us more efficient and accountable. Her work never goes unnoticed.

Get to know your Students' Association and get involved before it is too late.

Helen Stitt

## Queer Office

Well, we have survived another O-Week and, despite the weather, Market Day was a huge success with quite a large number of people signing up for Jellybabies. The first Jellybabies meeting for 1999 is planned for Sunday March 21st and we need people who are enthusiastic, people who like to party, people like YOU to make this our best year ever. Come along to Tilley's in Lyneham at 2.00pm.

Speaking of Tilley's, this great venue is hosting a fund raiser for the Trevor-Daly fund on Wednesday March 17. Entry is by gold coin donation and the star of the show will be the famous Carlotta. This looks like being a fantastic evening and is in aid of a good cause so we hope to see you there at 8.00pm.

As well as these two events there are numerous others planned for this year including another film night and a repeat of last year's highly successful "Sex and Health Week".

If you wish to become involved in any of the Queer Office activities please come up and see us in the office or phone 6279 8514 or email <sexdep@student.anu.edu.au> Cheers.

Fleur Wimborne  
Queer Officer



## General Secretary

I am now happy to no longer be acting in the position of General Secretary. After I was elected unopposed to fill the casual vacancy at the SRC meeting of the 3rd March. Little has changed really, I'll still be doing the same old same old. As this article is written I await confirmation of a venue for the first general meeting of the year... how excitement. Elsewhere in this issue you will find a notice for it. Please Come... ALL OF YOU! It is the perfect chance for you to voice your opinion on the way the Students' Association operates. Everyone has the same right to be there and be heard. Just come along to see what it's all about. Finally, remember to maintain the rage over what those damn Liberals are planning to do to you. Keep telling them that no student services will be really fucked.



Andrew Allan

## Social Officer

O-Week was a great success and I hope everyone had lots of fun during the course of the week. It was fantastic to see so many people on Monday night's 'Intergalactic' Bar Crawl and especially those that came dressed up! Tuesday's Pool Party was a great day to have some fun in the sun with the waterpolo demo and of course the pool pony races! The N64 and Pizza night was a fun night just to chill and play Nintendo on the big screens.

Market Day was once again huge with all the Clubs & Societies showing us what they have to offer us this year. Happy Gilmore on the big screen was heaps of laughs followed by *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels* on Wednesday night. The Chill Out on Thursday proved to be full of life with the jumping castle, some great tunes and of course the beer and BBQ. The Big Day Inn was a new arrival and was met with mixed emotions.

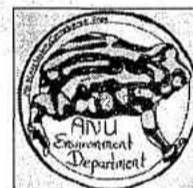
A big thank you must go out to all those people who gave up their time to help with the regular BBQ's and other necessary tasks during the week. We hope you made new friends and had as much fun as sleep deprivation would allow. Keep an eye out for the free monthly BBQ's and I hope to see many of you out and about around Uni! :)

Fiona Gardner



## Environment Department

The enthusiasm shown during the first two weeks of semester has been overwhelming, with over 100 people signing up to join the environment collective and over 30 people attending our first meeting. I'd like to thank everybody involved, those within, and outside of the department for their wonderful help thus far. This year one of our major projects will be the establishment of a website and the publication of a monthly newsletter on that website, this newsletter will include a calendar of events and various articles of interest to environmentally minded people. Anyone wishing to contribute an article or wishing to inform everyone of upcoming events please email me (s3105487@student.anu.edu.au), by the end of the third week of the month. In future our monthly meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 5pm at the bridge, everyone is invited. At our previous meeting we established an environment week working group, a rural issues working group a sustainable universities working group and many people showed interest in contributing to the Earth Charter, anybody who would like to become involved just email me, or attend our next meeting. This year the students and sustainability conference will be huge, the conference will be at the University of Western Sydney, Hawkesbury campus in the term break, more details will be on the web site soon. Thankyou.



David Carpenter  
Environment Officer

## Women's Department

Well, what a huge start to the year we've had! Hope you all enjoyed — or at least survived — O-Week, and are finding some solace in the routine of lectures once more.

March 8 was International Women's Day, which was celebrated in grand style throughout Canberra and all over campus. The Women Law Students' Society kicked off the day with a scrumptious brunch on the lawns of the law school, enjoyed greatly by all in attendance. For those budding barristers who have not yet come across the Women Law Students' Society, more details will be available by emailing them at [anuwlwls@botmail.com](mailto:anuwlwls@botmail.com).

The Women's Forum heralded the launch of the Women's Department for 1999. Professor Ann Curthoys, Dean of the ANU History department, gave an inspiring address about her own experiences of getting involved and active in women's issues, and the achievements made by women in the field of history. We also enjoyed a splendid demonstration of traditional Raqs Sharqi Egyptian dance — a precursor to our 10-week Egyptian Dance course which commences next week. Anyone interested in joining the course should contact Carmen at the Women's Office (6279 8514, or 0417 245 714). The Women's Department is subsidising the cost of the course, but places are limited, so call soon.

Take care until next time, and remember — don't drink and drive...

Carmen Currie  
Womens' Officer



Reproduced with permission from *Women With Attitude*, Hodder Headline, 1998

## Higher Education Cuts and VSU

The Liberals claim that Voluntary Student Unionism is in the interests of students and will give us more choice. This is a twisted joke.

The Liberals' opposition to student unionism has nothing to do with concern for students. The real aim is to smash student resistance to their attempts to implement fees and cuts and to privatise education.

They have done everything in their power to make students' lives worse. Thousands have been thrown off Youth Allowance forcing many students to quit study or fund their education themselves.

HECS increases will see thousands of dollars added to the debt that students have been accumulating in the tens of millions of dollars since 1987. Up-front fees for undergraduates exist for the first time since 1974.

VSU is part of the Liberals user-pays agenda. But this agenda can be stopped if students take action. In 1997 at the ANU, students and staff prevented the sacking of 30 staff in the Arts Faculty with strikes and demonstrations.

A three-day occupation of the administration block at the University of Technology Sydney saw the Vice Chancellor back down from introducing up-front fees.

It is precisely due to students getting organised through their student union that these fantastic wins were possible.

This is why the Liberals are so determined to destroy student unions. The leaked Liberal back bench briefing paper on VSU spelt this out very clearly. The Liberals want to smash the National Union of Students and campus unions to insure they can ram their deregulation policies through without organised dissent.

Students at ANU need to get involved in defending their Association to insure that we can continue to organise effectively against on going cuts and fees. For this reason every student should attend the National Day of Action For Higher Education Rally on the 31st of March at 12:30 in Union Court.

**Ben Halliday**  
*Socialist Worker Student Club*

## VSU — What it is and How to Fight It

What does John Howard hate most? Heroin-addicted single mothers with a 'black armband view of history'? An independent East Timor? No, it's student unionism. Student organisations have a proud history of defending the common interests of all students — campaigning for a decent education system, for income support, against racism and sexism. It is because of this common interest between students that student unions are universal — unless you opt out (elect to give your GSF to charity), you're automatically a member.

And it's because of this militant history that the Liberals are committed to wiping student organisations out. Their VSU legislation seeks to force universities to stop funding student organisations, by threatening withdrawal of university funds. This isn't about 'choice' or 'fees'. It's about wiping out the most vocal opponents of this reactionary government and its policies, to clear the way for even worse attacks on education — for less choice and for more fees.

Strangling student unions won't save us money — we'll have to pay for services we now get as union members, and we'll definitely pay more if the Liberals introduce up-front fees. We all need to take an active stance against VSU. We need to mobilise as many people as we can, unite with staff unions and other allies, and build public support.

The maritime dispute showed that mass action can sway public opinion and win real victories. The wharfies were able to expose the undemocratic intentions of the Coalition and the mass pickets on the wharves gave people a focus to show their support for the right to organise.

A National Day of Action is planned for Wednesday March 31st. Tell everyone you know. Come to the organising meetings. Come to the rally. Bring drums, whistles, banners, flags. Help make VSU this government's last attack on students.

**David Gosling**  
*Resistance*

## Crumbs off the Roundtable

The National Youth Roundtable (NYR) will gather in Canberra this month for its first meeting. The NYR is a hand-picked and carefully vetted group of 50 whose commitment to "represent" the needs of young Australians is yet to be tested. To date AYPAC (Australian Youth Policy and Action Coalition) has been one of our most important voices in government. It has provided a strident and effective voice for young people with independent, intelligent and constant scrutiny of Government decisions that affected youth. However, this proved to be inconvenient to Howard and Kemp — so they abolished AYPAC funding.

In an attempt to replace AYPAC and avoid criticism that the Government was ignoring youth, Dr Kemp introduced the NYR. Rumors are rife that the selection of NYR members has been politically motivated. In addition to this NYR meets only once every six months and has been structured so that it is unable to advise government on policy. Credibility has been given to the claim that NYR will not be an effective voice for young people: Dr Kemp has already said his schedule may be too busy for him to attend meetings. What a joke and what an insult to young Australians.

If the Government's VSU legislation is passed, young Australians will be in dire straights. We will have nothing — our student unions will be powerless and AYPAC will waste away to nothing. This is a ghoul-ish prospect beyond contemplation. But we must contemplate it, for the simple reason that if we don't, we won't realise how much we have lost until it is too late.

**Kianna Lafferty and Daniel Casey**  
*ANU Labor Students' Club*

## The youth of today pays their way

Believe it or not folks, but I heard it with my own ears. I know I shouldn't listen to them, I know no-one else does, but I confess to being occasionally interested in what those snarling people guarding the entrance to the Union building, trying to flog this green alternative socialist newspaper, as opposed to that alternative green socialist newspaper, have to say. It's kind of a detached curiosity, but basically to reaffirm my own beliefs. (A word of warning: don't let them bite you — I've heard the shots for rabies involve around 14 huge needles stuck into your stomach). Anyway, what they said was that Howard and the Coalition government didn't care about youth.

Naturally, this kind of grated with me a little. Basically everything that the Government does is focused on the youth of Australia: that is the future of Australia. Thanks to Keating and Beazley the government owes a lot of money. Now, I don't want to leave uni, get a job and pay all this tax, only to find that my tax is still paying off all the money (or even just the interest on all the money) the government borrowed under Labor and that's why more resources can't be given to hospitals, roads and unis etc. Through careful management the Government now has a surplus and can start to pay back its debts. Now if this continues, who is going to benefit? It's certainly not the elderly, who may not even live to see the day when a large bite of our budget is not going on massive interest owed; the younger you are, the more years you are going to live in a better society, and the more you will appreciate the need for the present reforms and decisions.

It's also this careful fiscal management which has put in place conditions for unemployment to fall. Youth unemployment reached 34.9% under Labor, and at present is 24.1%, and dropping.

I'm also sick of hearing all this bullshit about tertiary education being hard done by. There are now more undergraduate places in universities than under Labor and an increase in the total income of universities; what we've been hearing so much about is a cut in the operating grants, and yet the operating grant per student enrolled is still higher than under Labor (\$11,406 compared to \$11,300).

And due to the simplifying of welfare benefits for the first time university students can get rent assistance, and once the VSU legislation gets through the last compulsory up-front fee to tertiary education will be done away with.

So before you whinge about the Liberal government being bad for youth or uni students, or read the propaganda of the NUS, or any of the myriad of splinter factions on campus, check out the other side of the story.

**Tim Dixon**  
*ANU Liberal Club*

# 2nd Hand Bookshop

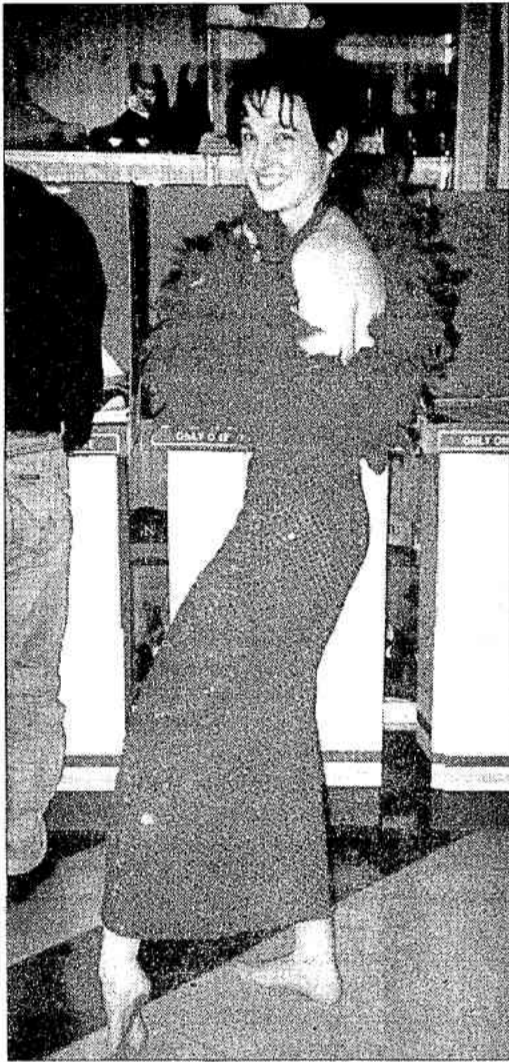
Do you want to...

- ✱ get rid of your old text books?
- ✱ earn some cash?
- ✱ help out other students?

If you answered yes to the above, you should visit the SA's 2nd hand bookshop. For a small commission, the bookshop will sell your unwanted textbooks. Drop into the Students' Association for further details.

You can browse through the bookshop from 10am-noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

# interview



## inside Helen's harem

You've seen her on the Today show, heard her on Triple J, and read about her in The Daily Telegraph. But just who is Helen Stitt, President of the ANU Students' Association? To find out, Woroni speaks to Helen about life, love (or lack thereof) and everything else.

*Woroni: Now you've got to talk into this little black tape recorder, OK? No! You look with your eyes, not your hands. Just answer these questions. Why did you get involved in student politics?*

*Helen: I got into it at the end of first year. The first time I heard of the Students' Association was during their September elections. Oh, hello...*

*Woroni: excuse me, we're trying to conduct an interview here. Can you piss off for a bit? Please continue, Helen.*

*Helen: I used to read the President's Report in Woroni and think that what they fought for was pretty cool...*

*Woroni: Hmmm... So what's your agenda for the year?*

*Helen: Simply, making sure the representative structures we have run smoothly and effectively, and that people know who to go to when they need help. Currently, places designed to help students are spread all over campus, so we're bringing them all together in the new Student Services Building. We also intend to make students aware of the political climate we're all in at the moment — there are regressive funding cuts, the GST, and other important events that students need as much information as possible on.*

*Woroni: You haven't mentioned VSU once — that's pretty bloody important, isn't it?*

*Helen: The idea is we've got this VSU legislation coming up but the important thing is that we educate people about what they'll be losing. I don't believe in ramming VSU is bad, SA is good down peoples throats. I want people to own that opinion and come to that opinion inside themselves. The only way we can do this is by leading, and showing we're valuable people.*

*Woroni: What lasting legacy would you like to leave the ANU?*

*Helen: An ongoing trend of more females in the Students' Association.*

*Woroni: Who are your most admired people?*

*Helen: Let's have non political figures person coz that's just tacky. I think Penny Flanigan's pretty cool, she's a young Australian musician, and Collette Dinnigan, fashion designer. You know what I think is really cool... when people come together and use their collective ability to do something big. An example of this is the Womens' Electoral Lobby.*

*Woroni: What is your favourite cause?*

*Helen: Equity in education. I just don't believe in creating barriers to education. A primary thing is that education should*

Helen during SA election week (above left) The electoral vamp casts her vote. (left) Helen and Ange appeal to the swinging voter.



Helen Stitt continues her love affair with the Students' Association.



be based on merit — not on ability to pay.

*Woroni: What is your current status?*

*Helen: I'm currently single.*

*Woroni: Great, am I a chance?*

*Helen: Excuse me, I think the phone is ringing.*

*Woroni: Dammit.*

*Helen: I would be on the lookout but I'm too busy. Ange, the sexy SA Treasurer [pictured left] is on the hunt though.*

*Woroni: What are your favourite TV program and movies?*

*Helen: This Life.*

*Woroni: Aaah, very good, that show was sensational. What else?*

*Helen: My two favourite films are Clueless and Tombstone, and that's pretty funny because they're two really different films.*

*Woroni: What is your favourite drink?*

*Helen: Pale Ale by Coopers.*

*Woroni: Hmmm, getting into it. What is your favourite nightclub?*

*Helen: I can't say anything dodgy like 'at home'. I mean, let's face it, Canberra doesn't have many good night-*

*spots. If you think you've got a favourite spot you've obviously got pretty poor judgement.*

*Woroni: What do you like to do when you go out?*

*Helen: Being with friends, having a good drink and having a good laugh.*

*Woroni: Good stuff. What did you do as a kid?*

*Helen: I did Irish dancing for way too long, but back when it was nerdy. Aaamm, stuff I shouldn't have done — like got pissed.*

*Woroni: Dodgy stuff?*

*Helen: Dodgy stuff.*

*Woroni: Riiiiight. Such as?*

*Helen: Oh you know... the usual... underage drinking. Stuff you shouldn't do. Don't quote me on any of that.*

*Woroni: Ha ha ha. Too late — it's on the tape.*

*Helen: Aah no, sorry, no. That sounds really bad.*

**“I'm currently single... I would be on the lookout but I'm too busy”**

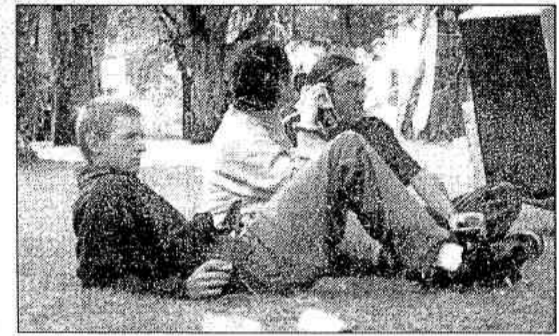
# O-week



These guys belted out the best Cold Chisel remixes we have ever heard.



An abseiling gorilla hitting the grog... O-Week just gets zanier and zanier every year.



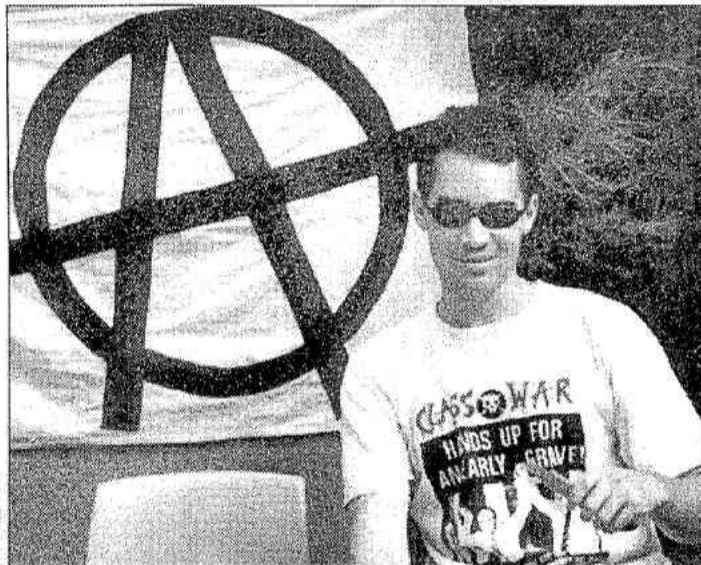
Are we having fun yet?



These guys think it's O-Week, 1286 AD.



These guys must be party animals, they're wearing Hawaiian shirts.

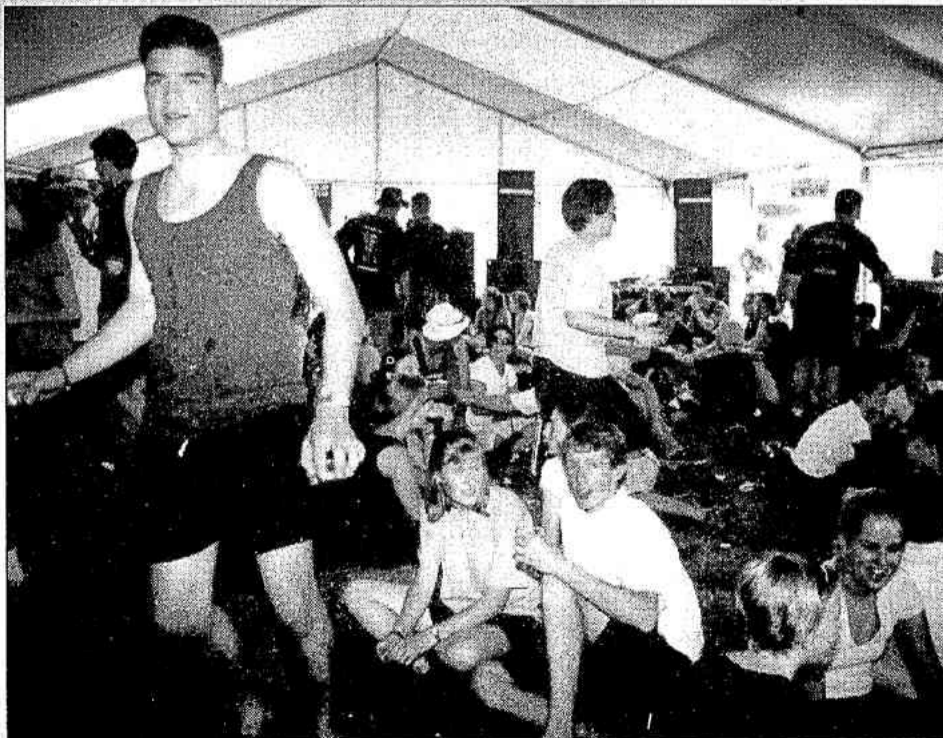


The anarchists signed up 312 new recruits on Market Day. They are now the third-largest club on campus.

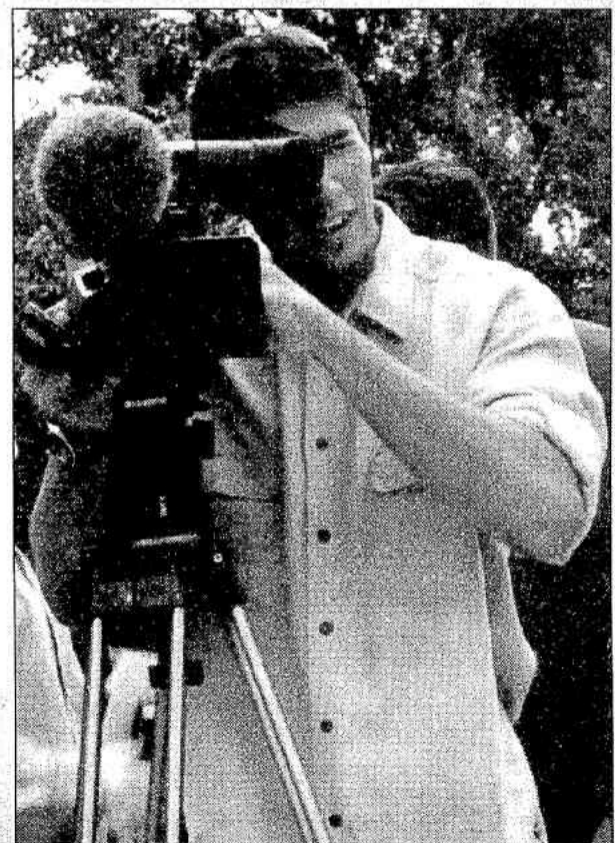
*Photos by Belinda Schurmann*

O-Week was so exciting even local TV stations were interested.

The Big Day Inn: so exciting people were jumping round all over the place.



Drink it down, down, down, down...



# Oh! Oh! Oh! O-wee

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